ILLUSTRATIONS

OF THE

POWER

OF

EMETIC TARTAR,

IN THE CURE OF

FEVER, INFLAMMATION, AND ASTHMA;

AND IN PREVENTING

CONSUMPTION AND APOPLEXY.

BY

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SECOND EDITION.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED FOR PETER HILL & CO. EDINBURGH;

LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, & BROWN, LONDON; AND

HODGES & M'ARTHUR, DUBLIN.

1819.

INTRODUCTION.

Facts accurately observed, and faithfully recorded, can alone improve the practice of medicine. Books of cases, therefore, are infinitely preferable to books of theories. Merely to report what a person has observed, may be reckoned an easy mode of writing. But is there no difficulty in divesting the mind of prejudice? no effort necessary in a man's shaking off the yoke of authority? in extricating himself from the trammels of routine practice? Too many physicians

begin practice under the incalculable disadvantage of implicitly believing what they are taught, and of disbelieving every thing contrary. It is no uncommon thing for one to affirm, that he has observed particular effects from a certain remedy or mode of treatment; while another makes the same experiment, with a very different result. The explanation is, the circumstances of the patients, and the conduct of the practitioners, though assumed to be parallel, may yet be very different. Besides, it is not every practitioner who *wishes* to see an innovation verified, however important.

A thorough knowledge of the powers and modes of operation of medicines, is absolutely necessary to successful practice. Whoever is but superficially acquainted with this branch of his profession, must prove but a lame and blundering practitioner, however splendid his talents and acquirements in other respects. Such

knowledge is not to be acquired by merely getting the list of officinal medicines, or formulae of the Pharmacopoeia by heart, so as to be able to answer a few questions at an examination for a degree. It is the result of long study, assiduous application, and power of discrimination. It is easy to judge from a physician's prescriptions, of the extent of his knowledge in therapeutics. Whoever exhibits a number of remedies at the same time, whether of similar or opposite tendencies, is not destined greatly to illuminate the medical horizon.

By simplicity of practice alone can the powers of medicines be accurately ascertained. If a number of causes are put in operation together, and at random, to which are we to attribute the effect? Complex practice cannot but lead to erroneous conclusions concerning the powers of medicines. This proposition, though almost self-evident, I shall illustrate by a most

apposite instance. A considerable number of years ago, Dr. Von Tribolet, physician at Bern, published *Remarkable Observations on the use of very large doses of Henbane in Inflammation.* With this medicine he cured the severest cases of sthenical pneumonia, and other inflammatory complaints, without the aid of blood-letting, and his patients recovered sooner than those who were treated in the usual method. But, unfortunately for the credit of henbane, our author adds, *I give nothing with it but the antimonial wine.** There can be no doubt that Dr. Tribolet ascribed to henbane what belonged chiefly to Emetic Tartar. His practice, therefore, is strongly corroborative of my own.

The successful application of a single remedy to a number of different diseases,

* London Medical and Physical Journal, vol. xxxvii, page 164.

will be a sufficient proof to some, I am aware, that it is not of much use in any. But it must be recollected, that the leading features of all the diseases treated of in this work are only two, inflammatory action, and irregular distribution of the blood.

The bare mention of *a preventive of consumption* will likewise, I am convinced, make an unfavourable impression on the minds of many with regard to this work. It should be read, however, and the facts duly weighed, before judgment is passed. I ask no more. I have had my share of experience, and know accurately the practice of the leading men in this city, in consumption; and, I am free to say, I never saw any remedy, or combination of remedies, produce effects at all comparable with those of Emetic Tartar in cases 41, 55, 56, &c. of this work. As things are generally more easily judged of by comparison, I shall state my practice

in opposition to the common, in a single instance. Almost all phthisical patients are more or less troubled with cough. Emetic Tartar allays the inflammatory irritation of the lungs, and expels the acrimony which occasions it, from the system; other practitioners uniformly prescribe opiates, which merely coerce the cough, and, at the same time, increase the phlogistic diathesis. I leave it to common sense to decide which of the modes of cure is the most scientific—which most likely to benefit the patient.

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EMETIC TARTAR,

&c.

One of the greatest bars to improvement in the practice of medicine is, the supine belief that nothing can be added to our knowledge of the qualities of those remedies which have been long in use. Hence it is, that the greater number of those who are stimulated by the noble ambition of distinguishing themselves as the benefactors of mankind, direct their efforts to the discovery of *new* remedies, instead of instituting experiments with those whose medicinal powers are demonstrated. But I believe it will be

conceded by the liberal and well informed of the profession, that much may yet be discovered with regard to the powers of those medicines even which have been in use from time immemorial, and which are familiar to every practitioner. It is well known, that doses of medicines have been given by mistake, which no practitioner would have been justified in prescribing; and, instead of doing mischief, produced only the desired effect. Such occurrences are of themselves sufficient, one would think, to excite the most indolent to observation, and to convince the inquisitive, that his knowledge is imperfect. Despicable indeed must that practitioner be, who, from beginning to end of his career, is regulated entirely by the general directions of a dispensatory in his exhibition of medicines,—who will not take a single step unless he can quote an authority. It is well known, that an ordinary dose of medicine will at one time

prove hyper-cathartic, and at another time quite inefficient, in the same individual. Is it not therefore a fair inference, that much remains to be discovered with regard to the powers of medicine in different diseases, and in different circumstances of the system in the same disease? Is it not rendered more than probable, that trials of increased doses of medicine, consistently with perfect safety to the patient, in one case, or one disease, and diminished doses in others, would, if conducted with accurate observation, produce results with which we are altogether unacquainted? Medical practitioners, no doubt, imagined they were sufficiently well acquainted with purgative medicines, before Dr. Hamilton wrote on the subject. But he has given a different view of the matter; and there are few practitioners, I believe, who will not own their obligations to that distinguish-

ed author. Were such mode of investigation, as that I have hinted at, more generally practised, physicians would find themselves under less necessity of hunting after new remedies; they would find the tenth of what they already possess more than sufficient for all the purposes of practice; they would become like dextrous surgeons, who depend more on their own management and skill, than on number of instruments. One thing must be admitted, for it is universally true, that the most skilful practitioners prescribe the fewest medicines. It is those who practise from mere authority, at random and by rote, who pour mixture upon mixture into their patients, and fly from medicine to medicine, in order to accomplish their purpose,—thereby rendering the means of cure infinitely more insupportable to their patients than the disease itself. The scientific practitioner, on the contrary, when his pre-

scriptions are not attended with the desired effect, suspects the accuracy of his own observation, or of the information he may have obtained as to the state of his patient; and therefore inquires more minutely into the circumstances of the case; varies the dose instead of changing the medicine, or omits medicine altogether; well knowing, that it can never be other than an auxiliary to nature, in the combats she has to sustain with disease.

Emetic Tartar has been in use ever since the introduction of chemical medicines into practice, and every author has been loud in its praise. It is very questionable, however, that its employment has been as universal, as the encomiums bestowed on it would indicate. This much I can assert, that I have been in the habit, for many years, of meeting with the most eminent practitioners in this city, who never once hinted at the employment of anti-

monials, in even the most acute inflammatory diseases. I have, moreover, made inquiry of my professional friends,—gentlemen in extensive practice, what their experience was on this head? and, to a man, they frankly acknowledge, that, though they knew Emetic Tartar to be an excellent medicine, *in nauseating doses*, as promoting perspiration without heating the system, yet they never entertained the view that I have given of it;—that "the sedative and febrifuge powers of Emetic Tartar," is a phrase quite new to them;—and that they never trusted to it as calculated to save a single ounce of blood to any patient, in any circumstances.

With Dr. Cullen, Emetic Tarter was a favourite remedy. This appears from his First Lines. I have been told, but I do not believe it, that he carried this medicine an unjustifiable length. The only subject of regret, however, is, his recommending

it, wherever he speaks of it, in nauseating doses. Had not this been the case, the authority of so great a man must infallibly have rendered the employment of it much more general than it has yet been. Nausea is an unpleasant feeling; nor is it easy to induce patients to swallow the medicine a second time, which is sure to produce it. Practitioners, too, who suffer themselves to be influenced chiefly by appearances, would naturally conclude against a remedy which, unless exhibited with judgement and caution, is violent in its operation, and which, in the days of Dr. Cullen, was comparatively new. Hence, together with the aversion manifested to it by a great living character, the almost total neglect Emetic Tartar has experienced in this country. Even at this day, it is in *nauseating* doses only the remedy is recommended, and in constitutional derangement alone; or where local affection is so considerable as to give reason to appre-

hend constitutional derangement. I trust, however, to be able to shew, that Emetic Tartar is eminently efficacious in chronic, as well as in acute disorders; in topical affections, as well as in general derangement; and that its efficacy, in either case, is not confined to *nauseating doses*. Nay, more, I will demonstrate that, in many cases of local inflammation, accompanied with violent re-action, blood-letting to one third the extent generally practised, is not necessary to the cure; that a speedy and perfect cure can be obtained with the loss of so moderate a quantity of blood, as to warrant the conclusion, that it might be safely omitted altogether, even in circumstances in which it is generally considered the only means of saving the patient.

It is on all hands agreed, that blood taken from a large orifice, in other words quickly, so as to produce syncope, has more decided effects in sthenic inflamma-

tion, than a large quantity taken slowly, or at different times. Does not this suggest, that neither the quantity of blood in the system, nor the quality, is the cause of the disease? and, therefore, that excessive blood-letting is not necessary to the cure? Does it not point out, that if, by any other means than blood-letting, the same degree of relaxation of the system could be induced as takes place in syncope, equally beneficial results might be obtained, as to lowering arterial action, and resolving congestion? I think it more than probable, that, even in the severest case of sthenic inflammation, Emetic Tartar may be so exhibited, as, after one or two bleedings, according to circumstances, to supersede the farther use of the lancet. And, would not this be a mighty object gained? If such a thing is possible, why should practitioners continue to abstract sixty, a hundred, two hundred ounces of blood, from

a person labouring under pneumonia? A recovery after such practice is, in many instances, an escape, not a cure! Is it consistent with any principle, that life should be reduced to the last ebb, without regard to age, habit, or constitution, on account of the recurrence of pain in the chest, and difficulty of breathing, when we possess the means of equalizing the circulation, without producing corresponding debility? The Diathesis Phlogistica of authors, or the preternaturally increased tone or contractility of the arterial system,—sometimes induced by any considerable local inflammation, at others, the effect of general causes, and always tending to congestion,—is most readily and effectually taken off by the relaxing power of blood-letting; which ought, therefore, in pressing circumstances, to be first employed. What I contend for is, There is no necessity, in even the most urgent case, for carrying the lancet the length of

"giving the patient the chance;" that is, of nearly bleeding him to death, in order to save his life.

But blood-letting operates in two ways, in lowering the action of the system in inflammatory affections. In the first place, the distension of the arterial system is mechanically taken off. In the second place, the stimulus of the blood itself is diminished, and consequently the action of the heart, as depending on that stimulus. For, in proportion as the quantum of red particle is lessened, the circulating mass must lose its exciting powers. Hence the debility consequent on excessive loss of blood. To moderate vascular action, therefore, without inducing dangerous debility, must be the leading indications in inflammatory complaints. And these indications will be best fulfilled, by keeping in view the primary affection.

That the nervous system is first affected, in the commencement of febrile com-

plaints, we know, from the change of feeling, and prostration of strength experienced. Afterwards, the vascular system becomes affected, and the circle is completely formed; the nervous and vascular systems now act reciprocally on each other. The timeous application, therefore, of means suited to remove the primary affection,—of the warm-bath, friction and percussion,—the latter to the spine in particular; and these succeeded by Emetic Tartar, in doses proportioned to the urgency of the case,—would go far, in many cases, to prevent re-action altogether; and consequently the necessity of blood-letting. At all events, Emetic Tartar, from its natural and powerful tendency to equalize the nervous power, cannot fail, even where blood-letting is necessary in the first instance, to supersede the necessity of recurring to it so often, and carrying it to that degree, which are found necessary, when the lancet alone is

trusted to, for the removal of inflammatory complaints.

Should it be said that, if the nervous and arterial systems act reciprocally on each other in supporting re-action, blood-letting must be beneficial in diminishing the morbid influence of the latter on the former; I admit the justness of the observation. For, it must be recollected, I am not combating blood-letting *in toto* : I object only to its being carried beyond just bounds,—to its being employed singly and alone in any important case,—and to its being had recourse to on every frivolous occasion. It must be admitted, moreover, by the most strenuous advocate for blood-letting, that in a case of inflammation, where depletion has been practised on a liberal scale, the arterial must have ceased to influence the nervous system, in a morbid degree, long before it becomes necessary, in order to obtain more blood, to place the head lower than the trunk of the body, that the

brain may receive from the heart that support, without which it cannot perform its functions.

In reporting cases of inflammation, it is usual for practitioners to state the appearance of the blood every time it is drawn. From this, one would be tempted to think, they seek the justification of their practice in such appearance. The tendency to separation in the proximate principles of the blood, however, is an effect, not a cause of inflammatory action; and rather indicates what has already taken place, than what is actually going on in the system. This is evident, from the fact, that blood drawn in the commencement of inflammatory complaints, often exhibits not the slightest trace of a buffy coat; whereas, a short time afterward, this appearance is manifest. The scientific practitioner, therefore, will never be induced, from such appearance, to take a single ounce, more or less, in any case or in any cir-

cumstances. The authority for blood-letting is to be sought for in the action of the system, and in the state of the secretions and excretions; not in the appearance of the blood after it is drawn. In proportion to the morbid excitement of the vital, and suspension of the natural functions, is blood-letting, or any other remedies which produce similar effects, indicated. Thus, if the heart and arteries are in a state of high excitement, the respiration hurried, and the temperature of the body increased in proportion,—if the secretion of the saliva and gastric juice is suspended,—if the skin is dry, the bowels costive, the urine scanty and high coloured; those remedies which restrain the action of the vital organs, and which restore secretion and excretion, are indicated, whatever appearance the blood may exhibit. If these symptoms have existed for any length of time, there can be no doubt, the whole mass of blood would

exhibit the buffy coat. It is impossible a fluid, from which all the solids and fluids of the body are secreted,—a fluid, in which, during health, a perpetual process of waste and repair is carried on,—can continue to exhibit a healthy appearance, when the functions of secretion and excretion are suspended or impaired. Independently, therefore, of the absurdity of being regulated in the administration of a powerful remedy by *ex post facto* evidence; whoever pays any regard to the appearance of the blood, will often omit blood-letting when it would be of the most essential service, and carry it too far when it ought to be suspended.

I know a surgeon who was consulted by a man having very little appearance of ailment about him, but who wished to be bled. The surgeon objected, but being urged, he proceeded to the operation; and observing in the first cup unequivocal appearances, as he thought, of

inflammation, he boasts of having bled the patient as long as he could stand, sit, here or see. Twelve ordinary cups of blood were drawn! I do not know whether to admire this practitioner's courage or consistency most. Indeed, I have often been at a loss to know, whether it is on their courage or on their skill that such practitioners pique themselves. One thing is certain, that, in their hands, one of the best of remedies becomes much more dangerous than the disease they are called to cure.

I accidentally saw a young woman lately, who had been bled ten times in the course of a month, for a catarrhal affection, with stitch in the side. She still had an incessant, dry cough, with marked determination of blood to the head, although she had lost from 150 to 160 ounces of blood. These circumstances prove, that profuse and repeated blood-letting will not always equalize the cir-

culation. The collapse, indeed, that must follow the abstraction of a great quantity of the vital fluid, is extremely unfavourable to its equal diffusion; and also to excretion, either by the skin or the lungs. Hence may be explained the inefficacy of blood-letting, in many cases of inflammatory irritation of the lungs, and of apoplectic diathesis.

From this view of the subject, I think I may affirm, without fear of being successfully contradicted, that there is neither safety nor science in carrying blood-letting to the extremes so much in vogue in the present day. That the practice is in many instances little less dangerous than the disease it is intended to cure, will be conceded, I believe, by its most strenuous advocates; that it is, in many instances, really more so, is confirmed by every day's experience. And, from many considerations, it may be demonstrated, *a priori*, that it cannot but be fatal.

Nature will conquer many dreadful attacks of disease; but if her resources are exhausted, she must succumb. Suppose a person, advanced in life, and who had been accustomed to live fully, to be all at once, when in perfect good health, put upon water-gruel and purgatives, and to have twenty-five or thirty ounces of blood taken every day, for three, four, or five days successively; What condition would this person be in at the end of such a process of privation and exhaustion? But if, in addition to these, he also laboured under distress of body, and anxiety of mind, the danger of his situation would be much increased. Is it reasonable to expect that nature will triumph over such fearful odds?

But the immediate consequences of exhaustion are not alone to be dreaded, from the unlimited use of the lancet. The blood is the source of all the fluids of the body. If, therefore, that is great-

ly deteriorated, so must these; and all the functions to which they are subservient, impaired. Hence the tendency to putridity in the fluids of those who have suffered great loss of blood. I once saw a lad, fifteen years of age, labouring under pneumonia, and from whom sixty-four ounces of blood were abstracted in the course of three days. He became extremely languid, and his whole skin of a death-like appearance. In examining the trunk of the body, I drew my finger lightly across his breast, when the cuticle came off, and a watery fluid exuded from every pore. Contrary to the strict orders of the physician who preceded me, I gave him half a glass of port wine, and repeated it at short intervals, for several times. From that moment the boy did well. Many a patient, there is little doubt, whose constitution resists for a time the shock of sudden exhaustion, ultimately falls a sacrifice to its consequences

The cure of inflammatory complaints by blood-letting, without the aid of those remedies which more directly affect the nervous system, is certainly not the most scientific mode of proceeding. It is, at best, but curing by anticipation, or by obviating the effects of the primary affection, leaving this to shift for itself. If re-action has taken place before the physician is called in, blood-letting, as already observed, may be necessary; because increased arterial action, at first an effect, now acts as a cause. But certainly attention is even then due to the primary affection. And, if due attention is paid to it, its effects will be more easily controlled. The advocates for the unlimited use of the lancet, however, follow a more summary method. They cure their patients in the same way the Romans gave peace to the countries they invaded; and that was, by making the blood of the inhabitants to flow, till they

became perfectly passive. This is lowering the action of the system, with a vengeance! But it will be found, that, as certainly as the action of the arterial depends on that of the nervous system, so certainly will those remedies which tend to equalize the nervous power supersede the necessity of unlimited blood-letting.

These observations being intended as introductory only to a more extended discussion of the subjects herein mentioned, I proceed to a detail of facts, illustrative of the efficacy of Emetic Tartar in the cure of Fever, Inflammation and Asthma; and in the prevention of Phthisis and Apoplexy.

CASE I.

Mr. S. aged thirty, was attacked on the 7th December 1817, with pneumonia, for which he was bled to sixty ounces in three successive days; and on the 15th, again to twenty ounces. Having got out, in about three weeks after this, he was again seized with pain in the breast, and difficulty of breathing, accompanied with much higher fever than in the first attack. He was bled to twenty-six ounces, with relief at the time; but in twenty-four hours after, all the symptoms returned with increased violence. Afraid of the patient's strength failing, as his feet were now become œdematous, I was unwilling to carry blood-letting any farther. I therefore ordered an ounce of a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water, to be given every hour. The third dose produced sickness;

and with it, relief from pain. In four days, the patient was free from complaint in his chest. About the middle of February, he had another attack of pneumonia, which again yielded to Emetic Tartar, without blood-letting being premised. Had I, in this instance, continued to trust to the lancet for subduing the inflammatory action that existed, thoracic effusion would have been induced, and I would infallibly have killed my patient.

CASE II.

George Page, aged 36, a mason, had the outside of his right leg, from a little below the knee to the ankle, grazed by a plank in the falling of a scaffold, on the 25th November 1817. Having, by

compression with the hand, reduced the tumour formed at the outside by the violence of the squeeze, and applied a bandage to support the parts, I ordered a poultice to the parts higher up, which were abraded, and whose organization, I was convinced, was destroyed.

On the fourth day the patient could walk through the house, and the parts abraded had assumed a black appearance. I therefore expected they would have separated without occasioning any derangement of the system. On the fifth day, however, I found the patient in a career of fever which I have seldom witnessed. I hesitated a moment, whether I should bleed him copiously; but preferred exhibiting an ounce every hour, till nausea should be produced, of a solution of Emetic Tartar,—half a grain to the ounce of water. The third dose occasioned sickness. His friends imagined him dying, but he told them he was

prepared to expect such effects from the medicine. He took no more of it. Next day he was as free from fever as if he had never had any. The gangrened part separated, and the wound healed up kindly.

CASE III.

Mrs. B. aged fifty-five, a thin, delicate, complaining woman, was attacked in January 1818, with pain in the chest, difficulty of breathing, and fever. She had struggled with her complaints some days before I was called. I found her extremely weak, pain in the breast fixed, severe, and impeding respiration to a distressing degree; pulse 100, small and hard. She complained also of being drenched in sweat every night; but espe-

cially towards morning, and on the head and superior parts of the body chiefly. I ordered her a solution of four grains of Emetic Tartar in eight ounces of water. Of this she was to take a table-spoonful four times in the twenty-four hours, unless such quantity sickened her; in which case the dose was to be diminished, so as not to occasion nausea. In five days, the pain in the breast was removed, and she could make a full inspiration. Debility and night-sweats were now her only complaints. For these I had recourse to nitrate of silver in the form of pill,—a fourth of a grain a dose, three times a-day. The power of this medicine, in checking the sweating, was almost immediately felt; and the patient gained strength daily. In ten days from the time I was called in, I took leave of this lady,—restored to a greater degree of health and strength than she had for a long time enjoyed.

CASE IV.

Mrs. P. contracted a bad cold in the course of the winter 1818, which continued for many weeks. Cough became at last incessant, accompanied with increased soreness of the chest, and difficulty of breathing. I was called on the 12th March, and found her pulse 58, oppressed and interrupted. No voice. She declined being bled. I therefore ordered as follows:

℞ Tart. antimon. et potass. gr. ii.
Sulphat. magnes. ℥i.
Aq. font. ℥viii. Solve.

Capiat cochlear. mag. omni hora, usque ad nauseam sciendam.

13*th*.—Had not taken above three ounces of the medicine, for dread of sick-

ness. All the symptoms much the same as yesterday. I now insisted on letting blood, but could procure no more than 14 ounces, on account of the patient fainting. Continue the medicine as formerly directed.

14*th*.—Pulse still 58, and oppressed, but less interrupted. Some voice. Cough greatly abated. Some expectoration. Bowels regular. Continue the medicine.

15*th*.—Pulse 62, less oppressed, and quite regular. Cough almost gone. Voice restored, and breathing perfectly free. Fine diaphoresis. Continue the medicine. I had now no fear of re-action taking place, though the circulation was not so free as I could have wished. From the moment, indeed, that the patient took her medicine as directed, every symptom gave way; and she never had the slighest degree of sickness. Within a week from the time I first saw the patient, she was perfectly free from complaint; and the

pulse had risen to 70, without any increase of heat.

CASE V.

Mrs. M. aged twenty-six, was seized on the 27th March 1818, with a violent pain in the left lumbar region, reaching round to the pubes. She could neither rise up nor sit down without crying out. Pulse 80, strong and hard. I ordered four grains of Emetic Tartar, and an ounce of Epsom salts, in eight ounces of water; of this, a table spoonful every hour for three times, and afterwards every two hours. The three first doses operated powerfully on both stomach and bowels. On the 28th, the pulse was still at 80, but soft and full. Applied compression and percussion to the pained parts; by

which the patient was enabled to move with ease. In the evening I found my patient much worse, on account of having used freedom with herself in the course of the day. Had taken none of her medicine. Her pulse was increased in hardness, frequency, and force. A fixed pain in the chest, right side, affected respiration strongly. In one word, she was precisely in a state that, according to modern practice, demanded an immediate and free use of the lancet. I diluted the medicine, and represented the danger of not complying with directions. This had the desired effect. She took her medicine freely; and next day at noon, I found her free from complaint, her pulse 60, and pain in the chest gone entirely.

In communicating to my friend, Dr. Anderson of New York, the observations I had made on the sedative and febrifuge powers of Emetic Tartar, he informed me that, so far as he could learn, this

medicine is much more generally employed in America than in this country. On coming to particulars, however, he admitted that my language concerning it was new to him; that he never heard it talked of as sedative and febrifuge; nor of its being capable of superseding blood-letting in inflammation, to the degree I have observed it; an observation, however, which he has amply confirmed by the two following excellent cases. I set the more value on these cases, that they were communicated by one who was sceptical on the subject at the time they occurred, and who is well qualified to appreciate the power of medicine. They are, in one word, the tribute of an enlightened, liberal, unbiassed mind; and I shall present them to the reader in the author's own words.

CASE VI.

"*Buccleugh Place, Feb.* 28, 1818.

"DEAR SIR,

"I SEND you the following case of Cynanche Tonsillaris, in consequence of our late conversation on the beneficial effects of Tart. Antimon. when exhibited in inflammatory, and some other diseases. A young lady, aged twenty, of a thin habit of body, was attacked on the 16th February with difficult and painful deglutition. On the 17th she took some opening medicine; but finding herself considerably worse, she requested me to see her on the 18th. Upon examination, I found both tonsils much swelled and inflamed, the left considerably more so than the right, the velum pendulum palati elongated, and the uvula laying on

the dorsum of the tongue, and the tongue considerably swelled, skin hot and dry, pulse 107. I desired her to take an ounce of the sulphate of magnesia, and to repeat it in three or four hours if necessary,—to apply the liniment. ammoniat. fort. diligently to the neck, to bathe the feet in warm water, and to foment the throat with steam arising from a decoction of chamomile flowers and poppy heads. She felt a little relieved in the evening, but there was no sensible amendment in the throat.—19*th*, increased difficulty in swallowing, and pain extending to the left ear. The throat was of a darker colour, with several small whitish specks on the left tonsil. Skin hot and dry; pulse 120; ordered a solution of gr. iv. tart. antimon. in eight ounces of water, a table spoonful every hour, till vomiting should be produced. This was effected after the third dose, when a small quantity of bilious matter was dis-

charged. A copious perspiration followed, which was allowed to subside, and gentle diaphoresis was kept up by a table spoonful every hour, of a solution of two grains tart. antimon. in eight ounces of water.—20*th*, passed a good night; skin cool and moist; pulse 78, pain in the ear entirely gone, and swelling in the fauces very much abated. Nothing further was required in this case, than an astringent gargle to restore tone to the parts.—22*d*, The patient was engaged in her usual avocations, *with little or no diminution of strength.*

"It appears to me, that, according to the present fashionable mode of practice, if I may be allowed the expression, this lady would have come cheaply off with the loss of from thirty to forty ounces of blood. Indeed, on the 19th, I doubted whether the urgency of the symptoms did not require blood-letting. But the delicate habit of the patient, with the

malignant appearance of the fauces, and my firm conviction, from several cases you related to me, of the efficacy of this important remedy in inflammatory diseases, induced me to rely upon it as the principle means of cure.

(Signed) "ANDREW ANDERSON, M. D."

It is not uncommon, certainly, to administer emetics in the beginning of this disease; and they are often attended with the happiest effects. The local inflammation is thereby mechanically discussed. But who ever heard of cynanche tonsillaris, where the local affection was so severe, and fever ran so high, being cured in one night, after having existed for four days?

On the 19th, the pulse was 120; on the 20th, 78,—with correspondent amendment of all the other symptoms. Blood-letting, to any extent, could not have done more than was, in this instance,

effected by two or three grains of Emetic Tartar!

CASE VII.

"*Buccleugh Place, April* 9. 1818.

"DEAR SIR,

"THE following is a case of inflammation in the lungs, in which tart. antimon. was liberally and successfully employed. A young man aged eighteen, of a spare habit of body, sent for me on the evening of the 10th March. He complained of general uneasiness, pain in the head, short dry cough. Upon taking a full inspiration, felt a slight pain high up in the right breast. Skin warm, tongue foul, bowels costive, pulse 97. Ordered an ounce of the sulphate of magnesia immediately, and to be repeated if necessary. After the bowels

were freely opened, to take of a solution of four grains Tart. Antimon. in eight ounces of water, a table spoonful every hour till sickness or vomiting came on. —*March* 11*th*. Has taken three doses sulph. magnes. which did not remain upon his stomach. Has had no evacuation of the bowels, consequently did not take any of the solution. Passed a sleepless night; breathing short and quick; pain in the chest very much increased; skin hot and dry; tongue foul; short, dry, distressing cough; pulse 132. The urgency of the symptoms warranted blood-letting to a considerable extent; but being desirous of giving the Tart. Antimon. a fair trial in a case so favourable for it, I extracted only ten ounces of blood, merely to take off the pressure of present symptoms, and to give time for the Tart. Antim. to produce its effect. Ordered pulv. jalap. comp. ʒss. Submuriat. hydrar. gr. vi. m.; and a table

spoonful of the solution every half-hour.—*3 o'Clock P. M.* The powder has operated four times; has taken six doses of the solution; does not feel sick; has less pain; coughs easier, and expectorates freely; skin moist; pulse 120; feels much relieved. Desired him to continue the solution every hour if awake.

"*March* 12.—Slept tolerably well; has taken five doses of the solution since yesterday; perspired a great deal during the night; feels a very slight pain upon taking a full inspiration: no sickness; has had no farther evacuation from the bowels; skin moist; tongue foul; pulse 98. Ordered sulphat. magnes. ℥ss.; and to continue the solution every hour.—13*th*, Slept well; feels no pain; tongue much cleaner; skin moist and cool; bowels open: has some appetite; wishes to get out of bed; pulse ranges from 74 to 78. 14*th*, 15*th*, 16*th*. Has taken the solution occasionally; is perfectly well, and almost as strong as before his illness.

"It must be evident to every unprejudised person, that the small quantity of blood taken in this case could have very little effect in permanently reducing the inflammatory action. It is unnecessary to make any farther observations, as the facts above stated appear to me to be quite conclusive.

(Signed) "ANDREW ANDERSON, M. D."

The sum of this case is, that pneumonia of uncommon severity was cured, in two days by Emetic Tartar, aided by the mission of only ten ounces of blood, and a purgative. Nor was there the slightest degree of nausea during the whole cure.

If Emetic Tartar has not been strangely neglected, and its powers under-rated, how comes it, that blood-letting is resorted on to every emergency, and carried such lengths as are recommended from every chair, and inculcated by every

author? If practitioners believed they were possessed of a remedy capable of curing such a case of pneumonia as that now detailed, they would quickly perceive the absurdity of trusting to the lancet alone, in any the most urgent circumstances. That medicine which can, of itself, cure a case of pneumonia of uncommon severity, must be a powerful auxiliary to bloodletting in the worst possible case of inflammation.

CASE VIII.

Mr W. was attacked on the 17th December 1817, early in the morning, with pain in the great toe, at the instep, reaching through to the sole, and round the outer ankle of the right foot. I was

called to him in the course of the day, and found the parts swelled, excruciatingly pained, and of a fiery red. Pulse 80. From my patient having had several attacks of gout before, there was no room to doubt that his present complaint was of the same nature. I proposed to bathe the parts with spirits and water of a temperature with that of the parts,—a practice I followed before Dr Scudamore published on gout. To this the patient objected, on the score of his having been treated in the same way once before, when he had a slow recovery. I applied compression with my hand, dipped in flour, for a few minutes, which he bore very well, though friction would have made him mad. Ordered a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water, of which he was directed to take an ounce every two hours.

Dec. 18.—Passed a very restless night.

Pulse 96, and hard, with stitch in the right side,—increased by coughing or a full inspiration. Had taken very little of his medicine. I now informed him, that if he did not take his medicine as prescribed, I would be under the necessity of bleeding him freely, by which he might lay his account with being much longer confined than he otherwise would be. This had the desired effect, as he regretted absence from business much. This day he took his medicine steadily, with the addition of two drachms compound powder of jalap. In the evening I found his pulse much fuller and softer, with an agreeeble diaphoresis all over the body; stitch in the side declining, and the purgative had operated briskly.—*Dec.* 19*th.* Passed the night very well; no uneasiness from the foot; redness and swelling declining; pulse 86, full and soft. Continue the antimonial mixture in quantity to maintain a softness of the

skin.—*Dec. 20th.* Pulse natural; stitch gone; bowels regular. But the patient cannot point his foot to the ground. Applied percussion gently all over the sole, and then a bandage. In the evening could walk a little. Repeated the operation and bandage. Next day, 21st, could walk pretty well. On the 22d, walked perfectly well.

On the 25th, my patient sent for me to his counting-room, when he told me his right foot was as bad as his left had been, and that he could not point it to the ground, were he to be made proprietor of Edinburgh for so doing. Admitted he had got a fresh cold; pulse rising and hard. Applied percussion to the sole of the foot for some minutes, when the patient was immediately enabled to walk. Gave him a slightly nauseating dose of his antimonial medicine. He dined in his counting-room, and walked home at eight o'clock,

Passed an uncomfortable night. Next day resumed his antimonial medicine, none of which he had taken during the night. This day he took six drachms sulphat. magnes. also.—27*th*. Was free from complaint, with the exception of being slightly lame. Two more doses, therefore, of percussion, exhibited on the morning and evening of this day, completed the cure; and the patient went abroad on the 28th in perfect good health, which he has enjoyed uninterruptedly ever since.

All the authors and practitioners, without exception, whom I have had an opportunity of consulting, recommend Emetic Tartar in *nauseating* doses,—with the view of producing sensible effects on the skin. I am quite prepared, however, to shew, that its exhibition is not confined to cases of high re-action; and that its beneficial influence does not always de-

pend on its producing nausea; that, on the contrary, it operates powerfully as a sedative, and equalizes the circulation in cases of local inflammation, where no re-action exists,—without producing nausea, or any sensible effect whatever on the skin.

In cases of high re-action, it is advise-able and necessary to induce, as quickly as possible, that temporary debility which is the consequence of nausea, and by which every considerable operation of the animal machine is lowered; but it is for want of observation, that nausea is so generally made the criterion of an effi-cient dose of Emetic Tartar.

Emetic Tartar, though a perfectly safe remedy, yet requires to be exhibited with caution. In some constitutions it produces nausea and vomiting, in even the minutest doses; to others it may be given with freedom, without being attended with any such consequences. Nor have I ob-

served it less beneficial in the latter, than in the former cases. Some people are nauseated by the first or second, and not by succeeding doses of the same quantity; others are not sensibly affected till the medicine accumulates its powers, as it were, in the system; and in all this variety of idiosyncracy, it still lowers the action of the system and of every considerable operation in it.

CASE IX.

A man aged thirty-six, of a spare habit of body, was seized instantaneously on the 22d January 1818, while from home, with lumbago. And so excruciating was the pain, that he was driven home, laid

at full length in a cart. I visited him next day, and found he could not even turn himself in bed without extreme suffering. Pulse 60, and oppressed. He was averse to blood-letting, so I ordered him four grains Emetic Tartar in eight ounces of water, of which he was to take an ounce every hour till sickness or vomiting ensued.—24*th*, Has taken all the medicine without any other sensible effect, than that he can turn himself in bed, rise up and lie down, with much greater ease. Pulse below 60, and oppressed; bowels natural. Repeat the mixture.—25*th*, Pain in the recumbent posture gone; can turn himself any way he pleases, and stoop almost to the ground without much uneasiness. Bowels regular; pulse above 60, and less oppressed. 26*th*, Has been out of bed most of yesterday; pulse natural. Thinks there is a little moisture on his skin in the morning, but is certain the medicine keeps his

bowels in order. As the patient complained of want of rest, he had an opiate at bed-time. He also continued his antimonial mixture, though less frequently, through the day; and from this date he rapidly recovered.

Here, then, is a case, in which local congestion and pain affecting the circulation, and from which violent re-action was to be apprehended, was resolved and subdued by Emetic Tartar, without producing nausea, or any decidedly sensible effects on the skin. Nausea, and its effects on the skin, are therefore contingent consequences of the exhibition of Emetic Tartar: that is to say, they may happen in one case, and not in another; they may occur at one time, and not at another, in the same individual; and yet the medicine produce the desired effects in all.

CASE X.

Captain B. applied to me on the 12th December 1817, for a rheumatic affection in his right shoulder and left elbow-joint. He could neither put on nor off his coat without aid; and was deprived of sleep, by the pain in the elbow attacking him in the night, in paroxysms of such severity as to make him cry out. In ten minutes I gave freedom of motion in the shoulder; and the pain in the elbow was coerced in a considerable degree by a bandage, but not removed.—On the 13th he did not go abroad, and when I visited him at 3 P. M. found a slight degree of fever present. Two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water were ordered; of this the patient was directed to take a table spoonful every hour, till nausea supervened.—14*th*, Had taken

most of his medicine, without nausea or any sensible perspiration. Slept well, having had but one attack of pain in the night, which was instantly checked by percussion.—15*th*, 16*th*, Sleeps without interruption, and is free from complaint.

CASE XI.

About the middle of January 1818, William Paterson, a poor lad, aged nineteen, came to my house at nine o'clock at night, with one arm of a ragged coat on, and another off, complaining most grievously of pain in his elbow-joint. There was much swelling round the joint, and a considerable way both above and below it. I handled the parts as the patient could suffer me, but had no bandage to

apply. In a few minutes he began crying like a child. I asked if I had hurt him? He assured me, not; but that he was sure a snow-shower was falling; for the pain was always much exasperated by such an occurrence. I looked out, and found his conjecture correct. I gave him three ounces of antimonial mixture, in which was a grain and a half of Emetic Tartar; directing the one half to be taken as soon as the patient got home, and the other half in an hour after. Next morning it was reported to me, he slept all night, a few minutes only excepted, when he experienced a slight paroxysm; and I ordered the medicine to be continued. On the third day after his applying to me, I visited the patient, as the physician whose care he was under before he came to me had not, he said, called on him for some time. I found him lying at ease; the swelling reduced two-thirds; the pain, even to the touch, en-

tirely gone, except in a single point in the bend of the arm. Six grains of Emetic Tartar, in twelve ounces of water, was the amount of the medicine taken. It produced not the slightest nausea; nor any observable increase of perspiration, for thirty-six hours. It then began to operate powerfully on the skin. But before this took place, pain was completely subdued. Indeed, he had but one return of pain, and for a few minutes only, after he began the medicine. I applied compression to the pained point, first with my hand, and then with a bandage,—including the whole of the parts that had been swelled. Two more operations gave complete motion to the joint; and the patient was at his work in a week.

This and the preceding case afford one of the finest illustrations of the power of medicine, that perhaps ever occurred to any practitioner; and exhibit the sedative

qualities of Emetic Tartar in a striking point of view. Nor is it possible to adduce more satisfactory instances of a constitutional remedy affecting parts in a state of morbid action, without producing correspondent or sensible effects on the system.

In these cases, the natural tendency of Emetic Tartar to affect the stomach and the skin seems to have been counteracted by a superior determination to the parts affected. Or they verify the observation, that where there is much local pain, the doses of medicines require to be greatly increased, to produce their effects on the system. Here, too, I may remark, that if, as some think, the proximate cause of rheumatism consists in a pecular affection of the nervous system,—particularly of the nerves of the parts affected; then the two immediately preceding cases prove, that Emetic Tartar exerts a directly sedative power on the

nervous system. Paterson remarked, *sua sponte*, that he felt the first doses of the medicine go directly to the pained part, producing the sensation of an agreeable motion all over it.

Dr. Barlow of Rath, in an ingenious and able essay,* relates some cases of rheumatism, which he quickly cured by Emetic Tartar,—exhibited in doses sufficient to stagger the resolution of even the boldest practitioner. The Doctor himself does not recommend the general adoption of the practice; and if the cases which I have detailed shall come to his knowledge, he will see, that it is not necessary to the cure of the most excruciating case of rheumatism;—he will see that Emetic Tartar effects as complete cures, when exhibited in doses insufficient to produce any sensible evacuation, as

* Edin. Med. & Surg. Journal, vol. x.

when accumulated in the system to the amount of sixteen grains. The unavoidable consequence is, that Dr. Barlow proceeds, on assumed *data*,—that morbid secretion in the stomach and bowels are *not* the cause of rheumatic pains and stiffness of the joints.

It will be denied by none, I presume, that morbid secretions in the stomach and bowels may, and do exist, in a greater or less degree, in every constitutional derangement,—that such secretions may occasion sympathies in distant parts,—that they may be both a cause and an effect of constitutional derangement,—that general health is preserved and promoted by the frequent evacuation of the stomach and bowels; but to attribute to morbid secretions alone, in the stomach and bowels, effects which are so much under the controul of external circumstances,—effects which may exist to-day and not to-morrow, while the cause remains

the same,—is to refer to an uniform cause effects which are variable and inconstant, not only in degree, but as to their very existence.

Emetic Tartar, in doses of seven or eight times the medium quantity for an emetic, must produce, it may well be supposed, both copious and discoloured evacuations from the stomach and bowels. The secretion into these cavities must be greatly increased, during violent purging and vomiting; so that much more will ultimately be discharged, than really existed at the commencement of the process.

The violent excitement of any organ will, by concentrating the nervous energy, relieve, for a time, every other part from pain.

But violent vomiting and purging give a tremendous concussion to the whole frame, and powerfully excite the action f the absorbents. Vascular congestion,

therefore, cannot but be strongly affected by them. It is on the very same principle, then, with compression and percussion, that vomiting relieves congestion in rheumatism. The only difference is, that, in the one case, the remedy is applied through the system; in the other, mechanically and directly to the parts affected. In the one case, the efforts of the whole system are put in requisition for the relief of a part; in the other, the part is relieved without the system being so much as aware of it. Compression and percussion, by simply unloading and exciting the action of the vessels, give as complete relief from pain and swelling in rhuematism, as the most excessive evacuations, of whatever kind, can accomplish. The effects of Emetic Tartar in the cure of rheumatism are, therefore, not to be attributed to the dislodgment of either morbid or morbific matter from the stomach and bowels.

We have a fine illustration of the power of concussion in equalizing the circulation, in sneezing. This is an effort of nature to prevent the determination of blood to the head, and to resolve congestion already formed in catarrhal affections. Every body knows the universal and forcible concussion the body receives, and the relief obtained, on these occasions. This effort of nature can be imitated by percussion applied to the shoulders, and the whole length of the spine. I have done it a thousand times with perfect relief from violent headache, and every catarrhal symptom. We never attribute the effects of emetics in dropsy, or hernia humoralis, to the evacuations which are made from the stomach and bowels; but to the action excited in the system. And I am convinced, that Emetic Tartar owes more of its febrifuge powers, in the commencement of fever, to its equaliz-

ing the circulation, and therefore lowering the action of the system, than to the displacement of either morbid or morbific matter.

Let any one contemplate Dr. Cullen's inimitable description of the phenomena of fever, and say, if the nervous system is not primarily affected? if to this cause are not referable all the succeeding phenomena of irregular and oppressed action in the first place; and in the second place, the re-action of the arterial system? Emetic Tartar, therefore, having a direct influence on the nervous system, prevents or moderates its re-action; and, consequently, that of the arterial system, independently of any evacuation it may occasion. The matter is evident to the most superficial observation. It will not be denied, I presume, that the nervous power is equally liable, with the blood, to irregular distribution. Neither will it be denied, that, where the nervous energy is

deficient, or concentrated in any part, arterial action is diminished, or increased. And, when the nervous system is in a peculiar state of excitement, a diathesis phlogistica, or fever, is the consequence.

CASE XII.

On the 30th April 1818, a servant girl twenty-six years of age, of a very full habit of body, came under my care. She had complained for eight days previous to this, and now became unable to do her work. There was typhus in the family at the time, which induced the medical gentleman in attendance to send her to the Fever-Hospital. She was therefore brought to Edinburgh in a cart, the distance of two miles; but instead of going directly to the hospital, she took up her quarters with her friends

for the night. I saw her at 9 o'clock P.M. She complained of headache, pain in the back, and a sense of fatigue and uneasiness all over the body. Pulse 86. I prescribed a table spoonful every hour while awake, unless sickness should be produced, of a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar, and an ounce of sulphate of magnesia, in six ounces of water. —1*st May*, 11 *o'clock A. M.* Did not rest well; symptoms much as last night; has taken half the quantity of the medicine. Bowels costive. Take an ounce of Epsom salts, and continue the antimonial. 9 *o'clock P. M.* Salts operated once. Has taken all the antimonial. Experienced an approach to nausea, at one time in the course of the day. Considers herself much better. Headache not near so oppressive. Pulse 80.—*May 2d*, 11 *o'clock, A. M.* Slept well; very little or no headache; pain in the back, and sense of fatigue, entirely gone.

Pulse also declining. Take an ounce and a half of Epsom salts immediately, and continue the antimonial.—*May 3d.* Quite free from complaint. The patient returned to her service on the afternoon of this day.

CASE XIII.

On the 7th of May 1818, I was called to a young lady, who was taken ill the night before, without any known cause. She complained of headache and general uneasiness. Pulse 86. I began her with very small doses of Emetic Tartar dissolved in water, as I knew her constitution well. The second dose, containing not more than an eighth of a grain of the medicine, and exhibited at the distance of two hours from the first, occasioned

sickness, and vomiting of a mouthful or two of pure bile, which gave temporary relief from headache. In the evening the patient fainted on being taken out of bed.—*May 8th.* Passed a very good night; pulse 80. Take an ounce of Epsom salts, and continue the antimonial in small quantity.—*May* 9th. Headache quite gone. Pulse 72.—*May* 10*th*, 11*th*. Pulse down to 64; and the patient considers herself well.

Thus were these two cases of fever cut short *in limine*, by the exhibition of Emetic Tartar,—*continued in alterative doses as long as any re-action existed.*

The power of Emetic Tartar, in lowering the action of any organ in a state of inflammation, is in no case more conspicuous than in hernia humoralis. But it is not by exciting vomiting that I have found it beneficial in such cases. I always prefer it in alterative doses, as suffi-

cient for every purpose in view, and having this advantage, that the patient takes it without scruple; whereas, if once nausea or vomiting is produced, an insuperable aversion is, in most cases, ever after manifested to the medicine.

CASE XIV.

A gentleman contracted gonorrhœa, in which the inflammation ran pretty high, and the discharge was copious. Circumstances rendering it necessary to keep up appearances, he could not confine himself. I advised abstemiousness in diet, ease, cleanliness, and a saline aperient occasionally. In a few days he got hernia humoralis. The affection had reached the scrotum, which had become red, by the time the circumstance was

communicated to me. I ordered suspension, and a solution of Emetic Tartar in water, of the strength of half a grain to the ounce. Of this mixture he took an ounce every two or three hours; and the progress of the complaint was immediately arrested. The cure, indeed, of the hernia humoralis, was completed in one day. The medicine was continued in small quantity for some time, but not more than six grains of Emetic Tartar were taken, and there was no return of the complaint.

CASE XV.

A young gentleman having contracted gonorrhœa, was greatly alarmed lest the circumstance should come to the know-

ledge of his friends; and therefore insisted on having an injection, that the cure might be the more speedy. In a few days the discharge had nearly ceased, when the patient was seized with pain and swelling in one of his *testes*. I prescribed Emetic Tartar in alterative doses, as the patient could not be confined. The pain soon abated, but was not altogether removed, on account of the extreme caution observed in taking the medicine, lest sickness should be induced by it. I remonstrated with him on account of his timidity, and he increased the dose, till slight nausea was only once produced. He abandoned the medicine, and I abandoned my patient. He then promised compliance, resumed the medicine for a few days, and the cure was completed.

CASE XVI.

Mr. J. R. aged seventeen, came under my care on the 8th May 1818, for hernia humoralis. Had had gonorrhœa for two months, for which he used astringent injections at his own discretion. Pulse 92, full and strong; headache; pain in the loins; tongue foul, and skin hot. Ordered three grains of Emetic Tartar, and an ounce of sulphate of magnesia, in eight ounces of water. Of this, to take an ounce every half hour for three times, and then every hour, unless sickness should be produced.

8 *o'Clock P. M.*—Has taken about four ounces of his medicine, which occasioned sickness of short continuance, and vomiting of a mouthful or two of pure bile. Pulse 86; pain of the testes not abated. Has had no motion of the bowels to-day.

Take of sulphate of magnesia, an ounce; and continue the antimonial in quantity short of occasioning nausea.

9th, 10 *o'Clock A. M.*—Pain of the testes, head, and loins, gone. Had one copious motion of the bowels; pulse 80. Continue the antimonial so as not to occasion nausea.

May 10*th*.—Pulse 64; swelling of the testes and redness of the scrotum scarcely perceptible; no pain any where. The patient, in short, is perfectly well. Continue the antimonial in small quantity for some days.

I think I may venture to affirm, that there is not another practitioner within the walls of this metropolis who would not have employed blood-letting, general or topical, or both, in this case; and followed it up with fomentations. But would such mode of proceeding have been attended with success, either more

rapid or more complete? Two grains of Emetic Tartar, with an ounce or two of sulphate of magnesia, effected a cure *in two days*, without the slightest inconvenience to either the patient or his friends; —a circumstance this, that, had the practice no other advantage, would go far in recommending it to patients of this description. I must remark, too, that the patient was but once nauseated by his medicine, and that only slightly;—an effect I intended at the beginning, in order the more speedily to check the febrile action.

CASE XVII.

A country gentleman having contract- a most virulent gonorrhœa, applied to his

surgeon, who prescribed refrigerant medicines and astringent injections. The whole penis became irritable and inflamed, with much effusion in the prepuce. The discharge soon abated, but the other symptoms remained. In these circumstances the gentleman applied to me; desiring me above all things to put a stop to the discharge. I told him I would much rather see it return; and therefore prescribed a vegetable diet, and small doses of Epsom salts occasionally. In a few days hernia humoralis supervened; when I ordered a suspensory bandage and Emetic Tartar in solution. The pain and inflammation were quickly arrested. The patient kept at home, and continued the medicine for a few days, without experiencing nausea, increased perspiration, or any unpleasant symptom. And the cure was completed, in every respect, in ten days from his first application to me.

Most authors affirm, that the *testes*, if once they swell, are never reduced to their original size. I can freely state, however, that all the four preceding cases form exceptions to the general observation; and I can account for the facts on no other principle, than the increased action of the absorbents of the gland, from the medicine being continued for some time. If it should be asked, How a medicine which lowers the action of the system, can increase the action of any particular set of vessels? I answer, that we know from observation and experience, foxglove diminishes the irritability of the system, and increases the action of the absorbents.

CASE XVIII.

A young man applied to me for the cure of a gonorrhœa of very moderate symptoms. The discharge was never copious, and soon disappeared under the use of small doses of a saline medicine internally, and an injection of a weak solution of acetate of lead. But an unpleasant sensation of heat remained along the whole course of the urethra, accompanied with a sense of fulness where Cowper's glands are situated; and an unusual *nisus* was required for the discharge of the urine. Leeches were recommended, but the patient had no opportunity of using them. I then prescribed the blue pill till the mouth was slightly affected; but the complaint remained unaltered. Recourse was then had to Emetic Tartar, in the form of pill, each of which contained

a fourth of a grain of the medicine. Of these, two were taken at bed-time, and one in the course of the day. The patient had not used a dozen, when he experienced considerable relief; and a dozen and a half more completed the cure.

CASE XIX.

A woman about forty years of age consulted me in the course of last winter, with regard to a chronic affection of the bladder. She had laboured under the complaint for some time, and at last got the better of a false delicacy, which prevented her from asking medical aid. She had an incessant, obtuse pain in the region of the bladder, which increased with the accumulation of water; and evacuation was effected with difficulty

and increased pain. I prescribed Emetic Tartar in the form of pill,—of a fourth of a grain each. Of these she was directed to take two at bed-time, and one in the course of the day, unless sickness or vomiting should occur. When she had taken two dozen, she returned and told me she was perfectly cured; nor did she ever experience the slightest sickness, or inconvenience of any kind, from the medicine. I never saw any person so grateful as was this woman, for the benefit she derived from my advice,—a certain proof this, that her complaint had been severe.

I mentioned my success in the above case, to a surgeon in town, who had a lady under his care in similar circumstances. He immediately put his patient on the Emetic Tartar pills; and had the satisfaction of completing a cure in the course of ten days from that date.

CASE XX.

On the 2d of April 1818, a young gentleman consulted me for a constant uneasiness he felt about the region of the bladder, and which was increased by the accumulation of water. He made water with difficulty and increased pain. Dated his complaint from exposure, some time before, to cold and wet. I was satisfied, from the *nisus* requisite in expelling the urine, that the neck of the bladder was principally affected. I put him upon Emetic Tartar, with little or no effect for some days. At length the medicine began to operate; not, however, by any other sensible effect, than freedom from pain, and facility of making water. Two dozen of pills, each containing a fourth

of a grain of Emetic Tartar, effected a complete cure

CASE XXI.

A Young gentleman, by indulgence in a detestable practice, induced such a state of irritability in the seminal vessels, that he had an involuntary emission every sixth night. This habit of the parts became so inveterate, as to set at defiance every mode of cure that had hitherto been found successful in such cases. Nitrate of silver promised fair, but ultimately failed of a radical cure. I then had recourse to Emetic Tartar in the form of pill,—a fourth of a grain at bedtime. He continued the medicine eighteen days, during all which time he had not a single return of his complaint. He

now gave over the former, and the latter returned with a frequency and copiousness as if to make up for lost time. I advised the patient to allow the complaint to take its course for a short time. With this he complied, and it returned to the old habit of recurring every sixth night. On the 1st of April he again resumed the Emetic Tartar, with perfect success, for three weeks. I then substituted nitrate of silver, and the cure promises to be permanent.

May, 1819.—The complaint never returned, even in the slightest degree.

CASE XXII.

On the 24th February, 1818, Mrs. M. came under my care, afflicted with rheumatism in her ankles, knees, shoulders, and spine. She had been ill for some

months, and could not walk a step. Pulse 112, and small. Is harrassed with cough, especially in the night-time. Cannot make a full inspiration. Has a child six months old, which she suckles with the left breast. The right breast inflamed soon after delivery, and suppurated in several places, successively. It is still greatly enlarged, indurated, and inflamed at several points, and discharging at one or two openings. By compression and percussion, succeeded by bandages, the patient was enabled to walk betwixt her bed and the fire, at my first visit; and she never again lost the use of her legs. Before this she was always carried by two women. In about ten days her inferior extremities were free from pain. Not so with the back and shoulders. Percussion here was inadmissible, on account of the breast. I therefore put her, from the beginning, on a solution of Emetic Tartar, in altera-

tive doses. In the course of three weeks, the patient could suffer percussion on the trunk of the body, in any force admissible in a state of health,—the disposition to inflammation in the mammary gland being completely subdued. By this time its bulk was greatly lessened; it had become more soft and compressible; and, with the remaining rheumatic affection, was soon completely cured. I attribute this speedy removal of a disposition to inflammation and suppuration in the mamma, to the Emetic Tartar alone.

In morbid determination of blood to the head, whether followed by inflammation, or merely occasioning congestion; I cannot conceive a more powerful auxiliary to blood-letting than Emetic Tartar. Powerfully relaxing the whole frame, and diffusing the blood to every part

alike, it not only diminishes the force of the heart, and lowers the tone of the arteries, but must also diminish in proportion, the quantity of blood sent to the head. Exhibited, therefore, with judgement and perseverance, and in quantity short of occasioning vomiting, it bids fair to supersede the necessity of carrying depletion to the extent generally practised, when blood-letting alone is trusted to in such complaints. I have been informed by Surgeons in the Army, that they have seen blood-letting carried to such a length, in Ophthalmia, as to induce debility, which terminated in typhus. Is it not likely, that Emetic Tartar would have assisted powerfully in resolving congestion, and equalizing the circulation, in such cases?

CASE XXIII.

On the 18th May 1818, Mrs. L. aged thirty-six, was seized with frequent rigors and oppressive headache, which continued for three or four days. Her right eye then became inflamed, extremely painful, and impatient of light. I saw her on the evening of the 25th. The Adnata of the eye affected exhibited a mass of turgid blood-vessels, through which there was not a single white streak or speck to be seen. There was great pain, difficulty of motion of the eye-lid, and a considerable flow of tears. Inflamation was just beginning in the left eye also. I could not ascertain the state of the pulse, as the patient had walked two miles. I ordered a solution of two grains of Emetic Tartar in six ounces of water; of which she was to take a table spoonful every hour, or every two hours, as she found it affect her.

May 26th.—Has taken five doses of the medicine without experiencing any effects from it. Does not think her eye any better. On examining it, however, I found she was not speaking the truth; and she acknowledged she was in a state of increased irritation, from having walked two miles under a burning sun, without any other shade than a handkerchief held to her eye. Inflammation in the left eye had not advanced, but rather receded; in the right eye it was sensibly decreased. Placing the patient's back, therefore, to the light, and putting a shade over her eyes, she admitted she saw better, and could move her eyes with greater freedom. Continue the medicine in greater quantity.

May 27th, evening.—Inflammation of the right eye considerably abated; left eye as before. Took her medicine in the course of this day, so as to produce slight nausea.

May 30th.—Inflammation of the right eye greatly abated. Can suffer exposure to the light, and distinguish objects. Had a return of headache yesterday, with threats of the same sort of attack in the left eye as she experienced in the right; when she had recourse to her medicine, which, she believes, checked the inflammation. At all events the inflammation is checked; and when we consider the course ophthalmia commonly runs; that it uniformly attacks both eyes in succession, if not simultaneously, with equal severity; there cannot be a doubt, that the credit of the cure is due to the Emetic Tartar employed. As the Emetic Tartar kept her bowels in order, I purposely avoided giving this patient a single grain of any other medicine, a weak solution of acetate of lead excepted; that no doubt might be left of its powers.

June 1st.—The patient thinks herself

perfectly well; active inflammation is completely subdued; the ball of the eye is decreased in size; the motion of the eye-lids is free; exposure to light gives no pain; the cure, in one word, is complete. Continue the medicine in alterative doses, for some days. A week after this I again saw this patient, when every trace of inflammation had disappeared. Here, then, is a case of violent ophthalmia membranarum, deep-seated, accompanied with pyrexia, cured in a week, and under very unfavourable circumstances, by a few grains of Emetic Tartar!

CASE XXIV.

At three o'clock P. M. on the 17th of June 1818. I was called to Mr. B. who had been complaining for some days of head-

ache, and general uneasiness. Unable longer to maintain the contest, he came home an hour before I was called, and went directly to bed. Pain in the forehead and at the occiput was insufferable. His face was flushed; skin hot; pulse 96, full and strong. He complained, also, of pains shooting through every part of his body, but particularly about his neck and chest. I proposed he should be bled immediately; which was peremptorily resisted by his mother.

℞ Tart. Antimon. et Potass gr. ii.
Aq. font. ℥viii. solve.
Capt cochlear. mag. omni hora usque ad nauseam ciend.

9 *o'Clock P. M.*—No alteration of symptoms. Has not taken a third of the quantity ordered of his medicine.

℞ Sulphat. magnes. ℥i.
Ap. Bullient. ℥vi. solve.—Quamprimum sumend.—Continue the antimonial solution.

12 *o'Clock at night.*—Headache rather increased; great restlessness; skin hot; pulse 96, full and strong; physic has not operated; not a drop more of the antimonial solution taken since last visit. I now informed the patient, that he must either take his medicine, or suffer me to bleed him; otherwise I would no longer be responsible. He submitted to the first alternative; I therefore gave him a wine glass full of the antimonial solution with my own hand; and also a bolus, composed of ten grains of the mass of aloetic pill, and a fourth of a grain of Emetic Tartar, intimately combined. In less than an hour he became sick, vomited a very small quantity; and in a short time fell into a profound sleep, which lasted five hours.

18*th*, 10 *o'Clock A. M.*—Headache greatly relieved; or rather entirely gone; skin moist and cool; pulse 74; bowels open. The patient got out of his bed

before dinner; took another bolus in the evening; and next day was free from complaint.

This gentleman, though 23 years of age only, had lost, from epistaxis, and by the lancet, much more blood than ever was in his body at any one time. He observed the strictest temperance in his mode of living; but such was the determination of blood to the head, and so subject was he to inflammatory complaints, that he was under the necessity of losing blood to a considerable amount, so frequently, that his friends became heartily sick and tired of a mode of cure, which produced no lasting effect. These were their reasons for preventing me from letting blood at the beginning—reasons which certainly would have had no weight with me in circumstances so urgent, had my confidence in the sedative and febrifuge powers of Emetic Tartar been less than it is. The fre-

quent use of this medicine in alterative doses, will operate, there is reason to believe, such a change in the distribution of the blood in this patient, as to supersede the necessity of blood-letting in future.

May, 1819.—Never was prognosis more completely and happily verified than the above. A determination of blood to the head continued to manifest itself for some time, by repeated attacks of headache and bleeding at the nose; but the Emetic Tartar being persisted in, every symptom permanently disappeared at the end of a fortnight. The patient now declared himself perfectly free from complaint; and felt an elasticity and bouyancy of spirits, to which, from a perpetual sense of fulness and weight in the head, he had long been a stranger.

CASE XXV.

On the 6th June I was called to an unmarried lady, aged thirty-six, whom I found labouring under Nephritis. She had been ill for a week previous, but the symptoms now became pressing; so that she was compelled to have recourse to medical aid, much against her inclination. She complained of colic pains, with a sense of coldness and fullness of the abdomen; of costiveness, coldness of the feet, severe lancinating pain in the region of the kidneys, shooting along the course of the ureters and inside of the thighs, particularly the left. Urine scanty, high-coloured, and made with difficulty. Occasional sickness and vomiting. Pulse 100, and small. Tongue foul. Could not lie in bed, nor sit long in any posture, on account of the lancinating pain in

the back and ureters. Had taken castor oil and other aperient medicines, which moved the bowels without relieving pain. I advised that twenty ounces of blood should be taken from the arm immediately; but the patient could not be brought to consent. Although offended with her obstinacy, I was secretly pleased at an opportunity, too precious to be let slip, of trying what Emetic Tartar would do in such a case. I therefore ordered a solution of two grains of this medicine in four ounces of water; of which a table spoonful was directed to be given every hour, till nausea should be produced. This was at *three o'clock P. M.* I visited my patient at seven in the evening, when I found her in bed; and that she had taken only an ounce and a half of her medicine, for fear of being sickened by it. No other alteration of symptoms, than that she can lie in bed. Continue the medicine with demulcent drink

through the night, while awake; and avoid lying on the back as much as possible.

June 7th.—Took several doses of her medicine early in the morning, which produced nausea and slight vomiting. These effects were succeeded by profuse perspiration, which I found the patient encouraging by a load of bed-clothes. Pulse 90, and softer. Feels the lancinating pain very seldom, and not so severely. Urine still scanty, high-coloured, and made with difficulty. Continue the medicine.

7 o'Clock P. M.—Continued all day in bed. Much the same in every respect as at last visit, the profuse perspiration excepted. Continue the medicine.

June 8th.—Pulse 86. Water is made with less difficulty, and in greater quantity, but very high-coloured. In other respects, as before. Bowels costive.

℞. Sulphat. magnes. ℥i. quamprimum sumend. Continue the antimonial solution. 7 *o'clock P. M.* Did not take the salts, as the solution operated sufficiently on the bowels.

June 9th.—Lancinating pain in the back scarcely felt; coldness of the extremities and tension of the abdomen entirely gone; bowels open. Febrile symptoms greatly declined. Makes water at times freely; at other times has calls when none can be made. Continue the medicine.

June 10th.—In every respect much as yesterday.

June 11th.—Says she is quite well; can make water freely; has had no pain for the last twelve hours. Continue the medicine for some days.

This was the most refractory patient ever I had to deal with. To no entreaty would she yield,—to no advice would she

submit, unless it tallied with her own opinion. Had she been bled as I advised; or had she even taken her medicine as directed, and as she might well have done without any inconvenience; the cure, rapid as it was, would have been accomplished much sooner. Four grains of Emetic Tartar, in little more than eight ounces of water, was the amount of all that was taken, and this with the utmost difficulty, in the course of five days. But these very circumstances demonstrate the powerful controul Emetic Tartar exercises over the system, and every organ in it, in a state of inflammatory action.

CASE XXVI.

A medical gentleman from England, who has been in practice for many years, consulted me in the latter end of April, concerning an hepatic affection of ten years standing. He also complained of rheumatism on the right side of the spine, and in the right arm. Had had two attacks of jaundice; and had undergone several courses of mercury. Being much engaged in practice, however, he could not pay that attention to himself that his complaints demanded. Had consulted Dr. Bailey, and some other eminent physicians in London and elsewhere, who agreed there was an affection of the liver. Being desirous of having percussion applied to his back and arm, I began it with very gentle force, on account of a sensation of painful concussion which it

occasioned in the region of the liver. I likewise recommended small doses of Emetic Tartar, to be continued as the patient could bear it. He began with an eighth of a grain at bed-time, every other night. Even this minute quantity produced sensible relaxation of the whole frame. So much so, indeed, that the patient was not much in love with the practice. Concurring in opinion with me, however, as to its mode of operation, and encouraged by its effects in those cases of obscure inflammation above detailed, he continued the medicine. About a fortnight ago, (25th May, 1818), he took a fourth of a grain at bed-time, which occasioned sickness in the night, but not vomiting. I promised him the happiest effects from this occurrence; and was not disappointed. The cough to which he had been subject for a great length of time, now left him. His countenance began to clear up. He can

bear pressure on his right side with ease; and experiences much freer motion of the trunk of his body. He continues the medicine; and, I have no doubt, it will operate a complete cure.

It is worthy of remark, that this gentleman also experienced a pleasant sensation in the parts affected, from the first doses of the medicine. He felt as if the disease in his back and arm were about to leave him. This sensation, however, became gradually less observable. These two facts (cases 11 and 26) cannot but be regarded as strongly corroborative of what I have already advanced, that Emetic Tartar has a direct influence on the nervous system; that it is sedative and febrifuge, independently of exciting the action of the stomach, the bowels, and the skin. It is impossible, indeed, to explain its operation on any other principle, in the majority of the cases here recorded.

CASE XXVII.

Mrs. S. was seized, on the 6th July 1818, with headache, and chilliness all over the body; which, however, did not amount to rigor. These symptoms continued for two days, when the left eye began to inflame. She consulted me on the 10th, when the tunica conjunctiva exhibited a mass of vessels gorged with blood. There was much pain in the eye, and great sensibility to light; and it discharged, at intervals, gushes of hot water, which produced a scalding sensation. As the patient had come from a considerable distance, I cannot speak as to the state of her pulse. I ordered a solution of four grains of Emetic Tartar in eight ounces of water; and, of this, a table spoonful every two hours till nausea should be induced;—the medicine to be

continued afterwards, in quantity short of occasioning nausea.

July 13th, evening.—Has taken all her medicine. Inflammation of the eye is not at all diminished in appearance. When I made this remark, the patient told me, that, though the eye *looked* as bad as ever, the pain was almost gone; and that, unless she exposed it freely to the light, she had little or no uneasiness from it. She informed me, moreover, that she had had two attacks of headache since last visit; both of which were instantly repelled by a nauseating dose of the solution. Continue the medicine.

July 13th.—The quantity of blood in the vessels of the tunica conjunctiva considerably diminished. Has seldom any uneasiness, except from exposure to clear light. No discharge of hot tears. Bowels costive. Has had none of the antimonial medicine for the last twenty-four hours. Take an ounce of Epsom salts

immediately; and continue the antimonial.

July 18*th*.—The eye is more inflamed than ever. Yesterday the patient considered herself nearly well,—the pain being entirely gone, and the appearance, also, of the eye, much improved. Could assign no cause for the sudden change to the worse; but, upon being questioned, said that, having kept the house all day for fear of the sun hurting her eye, and because she perspired copiously, she went out in the evening for the benefit of the air, and sat at the door, till she felt herself become very chill; that she went to bed perfectly well, but awoke in the night-time with violent rheumatic pains in the left side of her head and under jaw, and next day found her eye much worse. This relapse is therefore to be placed to the account of the patient's imprudence; not to the inefficacy of the Emetic Tartar. The cure, indeed, was, by her own

admission, very near complete. Bowels open. Continue the antimonial solution.

July 22d.—Inflammation almost entirely gone. Can look steadily at any object. The inflammation has been subsiding ever since last visit; so that the relapse was of very short duration. The patient remarked, without my putting any question to her, that she was quite sensible of the beneficial influence of the medicine, in relieving the sense of heat and fulness in her eye, and in removing every thing like headache. Continue the medicine, in alterative doses, for some days.

CASE XXVIII.

Margaret Peebles, aged twenty, having overheated herself by a long walk on the 15th July 1818, and not taken proper care of herself afterwards, was seized in the night with a violent stitch in her right side, immediately under the short ribs. I was called to her at six o'clock in the morning of the 16th, and found her in great pain. Skin cool; pulse slow and oppressed, but regular. I could not count it, as the patient was unable to remain in one posture for a moment. Bled her in the arm to the amount of twenty-four ounces.

10 *o'clock, A. M.*—The pain was relieved for a short time after the bleeding, but it soon returned, is increasing, and shooting up to the chest. Cannot make any thing like a full inspiration. Pulse

55, and oppressed, but regular. Ordered four gains of Emetic Tartar in twelve ounces of water,—a wine glass full to be taken immediately, and half that quantity at the end of every hour, till nausea is induced.

1 *o'clock, P. M.*—Has taken only two doses of her medicine, which produced nausea and slight vomiting; is quite free from pain; pulse 70. The patient informed me, that, after my visit at ten o'clock, the pain continued to increase, till it became as severe as before bleeding. A short time, however, after taking the second dose of the medicine, it went entirely off. I inquired, if the pain subsided when sickness came on? and was told, that the pain went off a considerable time before sickness was produced:—another instance this, and a well marked one too, of the sedative power of Emetic Tartar. The cessation of pain preceded nausea a considerable

time; and, therefore, could not be the effect of it. Can make a full inspiration.

8 *o'clock, P. M.*—Has had no return of pain; and has continued the medicine without being again nauseated, or experiencing any sensible increase of perspiration. Skin cool; pulse 60. There has been no motion of the bowels today,—notwithstanding which, the patient thinks herself perfectly well. Ordered two drachms compound powder of jalap to be taken immediately.

July 17*th*.—Remains free from fever and pain, and thinks herself perfectly well. Ordered a drachm of the mass of aloetic pills, and a grain and a half of Emetic Tartar to be made into twelve pills;—two to be taken immediately; and to be repeated every two hours till the bowels are moved.

In this case, I purposely delayed exhibiting the Emetic Tartar till my second

visit, that I might have it in my power to estimate precisely the effects of the bleeding. This proved quite inadequate to the removal of the complaint; but the Emetic Tartar subdued it instantly. I do not say that the Emetic Tartar would have produced such effects so rapidly, without blood-letting being premised; but I contend that it rendered farther evacuation by the lancet unnecessary,—that less than a grain of this medicine saved thirty or forty ounces of blood to the patient; and if this is not an object of consideration to any patient, I do not know what is. I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting, that the mission of any quantity of blood could not have been more effectual in restoring the balance of the circulation, than was the inconsiderable portion of Emetic Tartar employed on this occasion. As soon as this medicine produced sufficient relaxation of the system, a shew of re-ac-

tion was manifested,—the pulse rose from 55 to 70. By continuing the medicine, however, the pulse was reduced in a few hours to the natural standard. If blood-letting had been practised, till pain was completely and permanently subdued, the pulse would have risen in frequency in the same manner. But it would have remained frequent, from the debility that must have ensued. Emetic Tartar has no such effect; at least, not in the thousandth degree. In cases of inflammation, it has all the effects of blood-letting, except debility. This it has in a certain degree, because relaxation is debility for the time; but the powers of life are no way diminished by it. The quantum of blood is not lessened; its qualities are not deteriorated.

There is another circumstance in this case which deserves very particular attention. Accumulation in the bowels is a most distressing source of irritation

in every febrile affection. Purgatives therefore, rank next to blood-letting, in the scale of antiphlogistic remedies; very serious inflammatory complaints, indeed, may be prevented or removed by the timeous and thorough evacuation alone of the primae viae. Emetic Tartar, therefore, being capable, as evinced in the case under consideration, of subduing inflammation, where a full bleeding proved of but very temporary advantage, and where evacuation of the bowels had not been effected, must be considered as possessed of sedative powers in a much higher degree than has hitherto been apprehended.

CASE XXIX.

On the 23d August 1818, I experienced a sense of fulness in my head, particularly in the left side, which I was disposed to attribute to cold. Next day the same sensation occurred in an increased degree, when I was going from house to house visiting my patients; innumerable objects began to float before my eyes, and a degree of insensibility was creeping upon me. I slackened my handkerchief, but was not relieved. I took it off altogether, but reaped no advantage from so doing. I was convinced I saw well enough with my right eye, but imagined I saw with only half of my left. I made the experiment of covering the right eye with my hand, when I found the sensation of semivision an illusion. I walked

home slowly, and took a slightly nauseating dose of antimonial wine in a glass of water. I kept walking about, and standing alternately. In a short time a gentle glow came over my face, and remained for a little. I then experienced a more equal fulness in the head, accompanied with slight headache. These sensations gradually wore off; and I sat down to dinner an hour after taking the medicine, not only free from complaint, but with highly pleasurable feelings. I doubled the dose at bed-time, and continued the medicine for two days. I had no return of the complaint. Let it never be said, after this, that blood-letting is the *sine qua non* in cases of threatened apoplexy.

CASE XXX.

James Watson, aged twenty-six, in consequence of fatigue and subsequent exposure to cold on the 10th September, was taken ill on the 12th. I was called at one o'clock P. M. Complained of violent pain in the loins, slight headache, and pain in the breast. A full inspiration was succeeded by violent coughing. Could not lye but on his back, and could not move without great pain. Skin hot; bowels costive; pulse 104, full and strong; tongue white. I ordered forty drops of antimonial wine, four grains to the ounce, to be given immediately in a glass of water; and in three hours, other twenty drops, in the same way. He had also two pills, composed of Emetic Tartar and aloetic mass, administered.

9 *o'Clock P. M.*—The pills had ope-

rated rather strongly. Vomited the first dose of the antimonial, but retained the second. Pulse 90. Take twenty drops of the antimonial at bed-time.

September 13th.—Skin quite cool; Pulse still 90, but had been dressing himself immediately before, as I found him sitting at the fireside. Pain in the back gone. Continue the medicine in doses of twenty drops three times a-day.

September 14th.—Pulse 76; and the patient feels himself perfectly well in every respect.

Less than a grain and a half, inclusive of what the two pills contained (a fourth of a grain), was the amount of the Emetic Tartar administered in this case; and with all the good, without any of the bad, effects of blood-letting.

CASE XXXI.

A gentleman, aged fifty, was attacked with purging and vomiting on the 22d July, in consequence, as he supposed, of exposure to cold. On the 24th, when I was called, these symptoms had considerably abated; or rather, had disappeared. Headache, with violent throbbing of the temples, and *tinnitus aurium* had succeeded. Tongue very white; pulse 110. Being well acquainted with the constitution and habits of my patient, I had no doubt that his complaint was an attack of gout. To take off the determination of blood to the head, and to moderate the action of the system, were the obvious indications.

Time was, when I would instantly have abstracted at least thirty ounces of blood from the jugular vein; and I would

have considered the man fit for bedlam who would have proposed Emetic Tartar, where the stomach and bowels were so irritable. Such, however, was my confidence in the febrifuge powers of this medicine—such my conviction of its unrivalled efficacy in *preserving* and *restoring* the balance of the circulation, that I hesitated not a moment in trusting to it the cure of this urgent and important case. Accordingly, an eighth of a grain in solution was ordered every two hours, or as the patient could bear it. The second dose produced nausea and slight vomiting, which soon subsided, and were followed by an amelioration of all the symptoms. This took place at five o'clock P. M. of the 24th. On the 25th, the patient was so much better, that he proposed going abroad, to which I would not consent. On the 27th, however, he went out without asking leave. It is not surprising that, for a day or two, he was

menaced at times with a return of headache; but in every instance a dose of the medicine instantly checked its progress. Nor were the slightest unpleasant effects produced on the stomach and bowels.

CASE XXXII.

Mr. S. aged thirty-six, of a full habit, short neck, florid countenance, and not of the most regular and abstemious habits, consulted me on the 31st August, 1818, for an affection in his head. He had complained for some time of stupor and giddiness, which gradually increased, and now unfitted him for managing his affairs. He could not stoop, or turn his head quickly round, without the risk of dropping down. I prescribed twenty-five

or thirty drops, as he found it affect him, of my antimonial wine, in a glass of water, three times a-day. I did not hear of him again till the 24th September, when I was called to his house. He informed me he had followed my directions, and having got quite well in a few days, gave over the medicine, and returned to his ordinary way of living. He was suddenly taken ill in the same way, when he consulted another practitioner, who gave him a purgative mixture, which had little or no effect on the complaint in the head. A third practitioner was now applied to, who ordered him to be cupped in the neck; and fourteen ounces of blood were abstracted, with great relief at the time, but of very short duration. The giddiness, upon the slightest motion, recurred in an increased degree. He could not turn himself in bed but in the slowest manner, without the risk of inducing insensibility. He described himself as feel-

ing the motion of a fluid in the posterior part of the brain, directly opposite the ridge of the occepit. His neck was also stiff and pained. Pulse 92. Take thirty drops of antimonial wine in a glass of water three times a-day.

September 25th.—Pulse 80. Neck still stiff, and the sensation in the head undiminished. I handled the neck, convinced it was rheumatism which occasioned the stiffness and pain; and gave freedom of motion in less than five minutes. This operation had no effect, however, on the giddiness and sense of fulness, and of motion in the interior of the cranium. Continue the vin. antimonial. and take two of the compound aloes and tart. antimon. pills.

September 26th.—Pulse below 80. Skin soft and pliant. Can turn any way he pleases with the utmost facility. Sensation of fulness and of motion in the head entirely gone. The patient's spirits are

quite buoyant. Continue the vin. antimonial. according to circumstances.

Having been called into the country at this time, I did not see the patient for ten days; but found on coming home he had had no return of his complaint.

CASE XXXIII.

But it is not in increased, or inflammatory action of the blood vessels alone; or in morbid determinations of the blood to particular organs, that the power of Emetic Tartar is manifested. It is equally efficient in those nervous disorders which are denominated spasms. And this is an additional and conclusive proof, that it is through the medium of the

nervous, that the action of the sanguiferous system is influenced by it.

A young woman, aged seventeen, of a plethoric habit, and whose mother and a number of other relations had died of consumption, came into my service at Whitsunday 1818. She had not been many days in the family when she was seized with a fit of asthma. She informed me, she had been subject for some time to such paroxysms; and that the catamenia had ever since almost entirely disappeared. The girl wished much to be bled; but this I declined—first, because, though I have carried blood-letting to every warrantable length, I never saw it of any benefit in asthma, properly so called—and, secondly, because I did not wish to lay the foundation of a bad habit. I therefore gave her a dose of Emetic Tartar in solution, which produced slight nausea, and perfect relief from all difficulty of respiration. I ordered her to

give me information at any time when threatened with a paroxysm, or with difficulty of breathing in the slightest degree. This she had occasion to do frequently through the summer; and she was on every occasion perfectly and immediately relieved by the same means. Emetic Tartar never failed to prevent the paroxysm altogether, or to cut it short if formed; for the girl sometimes did not complain till she found herself almost at suffocation. Sometimes the medicine produced nausea, sometimes not. Four months passed on in this way; the paroxysms gradually becoming less frequent and less severe. By this time the catamenia had returned in perfect order and in natural quantity. During September and October I heard no complaint, and she left my family at Martinmas.

A few days after this, she returned one evening with a very severe sore throat, with much swelling and inflammation.

Pulse 100, full and strong. I gave her three doses of antimonial wine; one to be taken at bed-time, the other in the morning, and the third in the course of the day,—desiring her to return and inform me in the evening, if able, how she found herself. She returned the second day, and told me she found herself almost well next morning after calling on me, and did get perfectly well in the course of that day. There is little doubt that this young woman will ultimately fall a sacrifice to the disease she inherits from her mother, and to which she manifests so strong a predisposition; but I have as little doubt, that, did her situation in life admit of avoiding the occasional causes, the practise I followed would not only postpone the consummation so much to be feared, but would prevent it altogether.

CASE XXXIV.

——— Manson, aged fourteen, fell from a window, a height of sixteen feet, on the 20th August, 1818. I saw him very soon after he was carried home, when he had so severe a rigor on him that the chattering of his teeth was heard at a considerable distance. Pulse 84, full and strong. Having satisfied myself there was no fracture, dislocation, nor displacement of any viscus, I exhibited thirty drops of antimonial wine. This was at one o'clock P. M.

3 *o'Clock.*—Pulse still 84, with considerable heat of skin. Let him have twenty drops of antimonial wine in a glass of water, immediately.

6 *o'Clock.*—Is in a profound sleep, with a fine diaphoresis all over the body. Pulse 100, but softer.

9 *o'Clock.*—Feels quite comfortable. Pulse 92, but soft.

Habeat hora somni,
Sulphat. magnes. ℥i.

August 21, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*—Pulse 80. Salts operated only once. Let them be repeated to an ounce and a half. Continue the antimonial occasionally.

9 *o'Clock, P. M.*—Pulse natural; and the patient feels quite well.

It is worthy of observation, that the Emetic Tartar produced no sickness in this instance; and had sensible effects on the skin only once, after the second dose. The boy's father was taking this medicine at the same time for lumbago, very liberally; and it had no sensible effects on him, other than his getting well in three or four days under its administration, combined with two doses of percussion.

CASE XXXV.

This case was communicated to me by James Moir, Esq. surgeon, Royal Navy, and is as follows:—" I was requested to visit a girl about thirteen years of age; and, upon making inquiry into the particulars of her case, was informed, that she was rather subject to headache, and that, on the 21st November, she was seized with severe pain in the head, accompanied with heat of skin, great thirst, and constipation of the bowels. Her mother gave her a dose of salts in the morning of the 22d, which operated freely; and she had water acidulated with cream of tartar, for common drink. She passed a restless night; and, on the evening of the 23d, I was sent for. I found her complaining of severe pain in her head, her skin very hot and dry, the

tongue parched, and the pulse 140, strong and full. Her breathing was free, but she complained of general uneasiness and pain over her whole body.

" Having lately perused Dr. Balfour's publication on Tartar Emetic, I thought this was a case in which it would have a fair trial. I therefore ordered four grains in four ounces of water, of which half a table spoonful was to be taken every hour; but if sickness or vomiting was induced, this dose was to be exhibited every two hours only. After the fourth half spoonful, slight vomiting was excited; and the medicine was continued every two hours afterwards without occasioning any sickness.

" *November* 24*th*.—Rested pretty well during the night; head much relieved; skin moist; bowels open; pulse 120. Complains of pain in her throat. Upon examination, I found the left amygdala considerably swelled and inflamed. Or-

dered a gargle of vinegar. Continue the antimonial medicine. *Evening.*—Little or no headache; pulse 110. Ordered the remainder of the antimonial solution to be taken in divided doses before going to bed.

November 25th.—I found my patient occupied in sewing this morning, with a natural pulse, and free from every complaint. In this case, violent headache, inflammation of the throat, and every inflammatory symptom was removed; and the pulse, which, when I was called in, beat 140 strokes in a minute, was reduced to its natural standard,—all in the space of thirty-six hours, and by four grains of Tartar Emetic; for I prescribed no other internal remedy."

(Signed) "JAMES MOIR, Surgeon, R. N."

"*Edinburgh, 18th Dec.* 1812."

CASE XXXVI.

On the 6th of January I was called to a young woman, twenty-one years of age, whom I found complaining of a violent stitch in her right side, affecting respiration considerably. Pulse 55, irregular and oppressed—the sure harbinger of violent reaction. The patient attributed her illness to cold, to which she had been recently exposed; and was under great alarm for herself, as she felt her complaints increasing rapidly. I prescribed a solution of four grains of Emetic Tartar in eight ounces of water; and directed about an ounce and a half to be taken every hour till nausea should be induced. She commenced taking her medicine at half-past seven in the evening, and consinued it, according to directions, till about the half was taken. She

then sickened, and vomited repeatedly, till three o'clock next morning.

January 7th, 10 *o'clock*, *A.M.*—Found my patient walking through the house, busied in her usual occupations, and free from all complaint, except a slight degree of remaining nausea. Pulse 65, regular and free. Respiration perfectly free, and the stitch entirely gone. She informed me that the pain in her side, which was the original and principal complaint, left her at nine o'clock the preceding evening; that is, an hour and a half after beginning her medicine, and before any sickness or vomiting occurred! These are the simple unvarnished facts of the case; and I leave it to the judgment of every candid practitioner, if they do not exhibit the sedative and febrifuge powers of Emetic Tartar in an entirely new light?

CASE XXXVII.

Miss Janet Baird, aged twenty-six, after complaining for several days of weakness, listlessness, and pains shooting through her body, was confined to bed on the 5th of December last. I was called to her in the evening, and found her extremely restless; her pulse 120, face much flushed, and skin hot and dry. I ordered a wine glass full, every two hours, of a solution of four grains of Emetic Tartar in twelve ounces of water. The first dose occasioned violent pain in the bowels, which was followed by slight purging. She, notwithstanding, continued the medicine; and, after an additional dose or two, fell into a profound sleep of three hours continuance.

December 6th.—Pulse 110; heat of skin and flushing of the face much abated.

The first dose only of the medicine produced violent effects on the bowels; but it never occasioned nausea, or sensible increase of perspiration. Continue the medicine.

December 7th.—Pulse 96. Complains of pain in her back and knees. Continue the medicine as the bowels can bear it.

I was called from home on the 8th December, without seeing my patient again. I left directions, however, to call in one of my professional friends, if the fever and pain did not soon subside. She continued the antimonial for two or three days longer, when every symptom of disease disappeared. In this case of acute rheumatism, in which the symptoms ran pretty high, all the medicine exhibited consisted of from eight to ten grains of Emetic Tartar.

CASE XXXVIII.

James Russel, about forty years of age, came under my care in September 1818. The man seemed to be dying, purely for want of air. He had laboured under asthma for twelve years; and had devoured a great deal of medicine, without experiencing any benefit. I prescribed a watery solution of Emetic Tartar; of which he was directed to take a dose, short of occasioning nausea, three times a-day. He, however, repeatedly took an Emetic dose of his own accord; and always experienced increasd benefit from it. When he had used the medicine about a fortnight, he began to think it might be of some service to him; for he was quite sceptical at first, owing to his having formerly used so much medicine in vain. At the end of a month, he declared him-

self much better. His test was, "I can come up the brae now without stopping." He could now make a full inspiration; and his countenance had assumed a more healthy appearance;—a circumstance this, sufficiently demonstrative of the change produced in the function of respiration.

I accidentally saw this man, on the 13th of May last, in perfect good health, and at his work.

CASE XXXIX.

In September last, I was consulted in the case of a man about forty years of age, in the last stage of pulmonary consumption; his flesh and strength were greatly reduced, the expectoration was

copious and foetid, the nocturnal sweats profuse; his pulse was permanently 120, his respiration laborious, and he was harassed with a hoarse and hollow cough to a most distressing degree. Notwithstanding the emaciation and prostration of strength in this case, I did not think the difficulty of breathing, which occurred in paroxysms, proceeded altogether from debility. It appeared to be owing, in a great measure, to inflammatory action in the lungs, from fresh accessions of cold. This was also the opinion of Archibald Hamilton, Esq. late surgeon of the 92d regiment, by whom I was called in, and who knew his patient in the Peninsular war. With a view, therefore, of reducing inflammatory action, we prescribed Emetic Tartar, in doses that excited the slightest degree of nausea imaginable; and, in order to diminish the quantum, and correct the foetor of the sputum,—and also to

moderate the colliquative sweats, nitrate of silver was, at the same time, exhibited. I am well aware, that this practice may appear unscientific,—that a medicine which powerfully increases evacuation by the skin may appear equally inadmissible where hectic sweatings prevail, as a tonic remedy where inflammatory action exists. The facts of the case, however, set all such reasoning at defiance. Almost immediately from the commencement of this treatment, a sense of tightness in the chest, of which the patient always complained, and the occasional paroxysms of dyspnoea disappeared in a great degree; in a short time the sputum was diminished in quantity, and greatly meliorated in smell and appearance; in a week, the pulse was reduced to 90; the sweatings were considerably moderated, and his cough soon became much softer and less frequent. In short, had this

man possessed the means of subsistence and accommodation suited to a patient in his circumstances, we would have dared to entertain a faint hope of accomplishing a cure. Of these, however, he was entirely destitute, and fell the victim of want and disease combined.

This case, though of fatal termination, is fraught with the most important instruction. That Emetic Tartar which, in this instance, manifested such curative, must possess prophylactic powers in an eminent degree, in phthisis pulmonalis, is an inference, the fairness of which cannot be denied. Had this medicine, therefore, been timeously employed, and its exhibition persisted in, it is more than probable that ulceration of the lungs would have been prevented. A remedy which subdues inflammatory action in the lungs when in a state of ulceration, cannot but be supposed capable of subduing the inflammatory ac-

tion which always precedes ulceration, and thereby, of preventing the farther progress of the disease.

CASE XL.

Mrs. Forest, who completed her eightieth year on the last day of 1818, was seized on the 7th December with dyspnoea in so distressing a degree, that she was necessitated to preserve the erect posture, night and day. There was no pain in the chest, but she had a considerable degree of fever—the pulse being 100, full and strong, and the bowels costive. This lady, having enjoyed almost uninterrupted good health during her long life, was decidedly averse to much medical interference. She would not

submit to be bled. I had, therefore, an opportunity, without subjecting myself to the charge of making unwarrantable experiments, of trying the power of Emetic Tartar in a very urgent and interesting case. I prescribed small doses at first, lest I should give umbrage to my patient. An emetic dose, however, being administered by mistake, she found herself immediately and greatly relieved. She now piqued herself upon her readiness to comply with whatever advice I might give. I therefore, continued the medicine, and occasionally in nauseating, and even emetic doses,—interposing a purgative, as circumstances required. Eight grains only of Emetic Tartar were used in the course of ten days, when I had the satisfaction of seeing this venerable matron restored to perfect health—which she still (June 1819) continues to enjoy.

CASE XLI.

Mr. H. M. aged twenty-one, of a very fair complexion, began to feel a sense of tightness in his chest, early in the spring of 1818, accompanied with obtuse pain, particularly at the top and left side of the sternum, and slight cough—both which were increased by a full inspiration. Could not lie on his left side, on account of the pain at the top of the thorax. He did not perceive his strength much impaired, but was sensible of respiration being much easier hurried on going up a stair, or any ascent. At length, he began to spit blood occasionally. Alarmed at this, he consulted me on the 11th of November. At this time, the pain in the chest was become more perceptible, and, of course, respiration less free.

Pulse 70. Expectorated occasionally a small quantity of puriform matter.

I prescribed Emetic Tartar in small doses, as I intended it should be continued a considerable length of time. An eighth of a grain in solution was taken at bed-time, and about a sixteenth in the morning. The evening dose was increased when any blood appeared in the sputum. He continued this course, attending to his business at the same time, for some weeks, when the pain in the chest left him entirely. He could now lie on his left side, and make a full inspiration, without any impediment. The spitting of blood also, which never was frequent, became gradually less so; and, in about two months from the commencement of the medicine, disappeared altogether. I now directed my patient to take his medicine at night only, and to proportion the dose according to circumstances,—omitting it altogether when

free from complaint, and doubling the dose, both as to quantum and frequency, when the slightest catarrhal, or any of his former symptoms, appeared.

June, 1819.—He is at this date quite free from complaint, but continues his antimonial medicine occasionally.

CASE XLII.

John Pettigrew, aged forty-two, consulted me on the 8th of January on account of an asthmatic affection, under which he had laboured for many months. About ten months previous to his applying to me, he had fallen into a state of bad health, of which asthma and symptoms of general dropsy were the principal

features. The dropsical affection yielded to medicine, but the asthma remained unmitigated by all he could take —and he had been under the direction of various private practitioners.

I prescribed a solution of four grains of Emetic Tartar in an ounce and a half of water, of which he was directed to take a tea spoonful three times a-day. The first dose proved smartly emetic, but none of the succeeding produced even nausea. He took precisely four grains of the medicine in a week; and when it ran short, or he omitted to take it, the next dose uniformly occasioned vomiting; but even the same quantity never had this effect when taken regularly at set intervals. This patient always felt great relief after full vomiting, so that he intentionally omitted his medicine, now and then, for a short time, that the next dose might produce it.

By the time this man had taken six ounces of his solution, or twenty-four grains of Emetic Tartar, he felt himself quite another man. He could now make a full inspiration, and retain his breath a considerable time, without coughing or experiencing any inconvenience; he could mount up a stair of any length (I saw him mount up eighty steps) without being more hurried in his breathing than a person free from complaint,—he admitted a great improvement in his strength,—any one looking at him could have perceived a change in the position of his head and shoulders; whereas, when he applied to me, he could not go up a few steps of a stair without being exhausted,—his thorax, or lungs, or both, refused to dilate for the purpose of a full inspiration,—and even an attempt at this produced exhaustion and cough.

CASE XLIII.

Mr. G. aged forty-five, of a fine florid complexion, was seized about the end of harvest with an obscure pain in his breast, which affected respiration considerably. Knew no cause for the complaint, and therefore paid little or no attention to it for some weeks. About Martinmas it began to increase, attended with cough. The patient's friends now became alarmed, and resolved on taking advice. He therefore embraced the first opportunity of his being in Edinburgh, to consult me. I prescribed antimonial wine, in doses short of occasioning nausea, twice a-day—directing a larger dose in the evening than what could be well taken in the course of the day, by a gentleman engaged in business from morning to night, and more or less on

horseback every day. Almost from his commencing this course, he felt benefit from the medicine; and was quite free from complaint in less than a month. I saw my patient in the end of February, when he informed me, he was convinced I had saved his life.

This gentleman is so much pleased with a practice from which he derived so much benefit, through means so simple, that he speaks of it with enthusiasm wherever he goes. A poor man in his neighbourhood, eighty years of age, was confined to bed with difficulty of breathing and obscure pain in the chest, for many days; and never expected to be able to leave it again. Mr. G. hearing of the case, sent a little of his medicine, with directions; and the poor man was at his work on the third day. There is not a sore throat, or cattarhal affection of any degree that occurs in the village or neighbourhood in which this gentel-

man resides, but he is applied to for a little of his medicine; and he distributes it with a philanthropy and success that gives no small umbrage to the surgeon of the place. My friend is more alive, however, to the calls of distress, than to the remonstrances of any interested, illiberal practitioner whatever.

CASE XLIV.

Mrs. S. aged fifty, of a very florid complexion and full habit of body, was seized with dyspnoea, in the course of November last year, to which she paid little attention for some weeks. Symptoms becoming urgent, however, she at last took advice, and was forthwith put upon antimonial wine, in small doses, twice or thrice

a-day. The minutest quantity of the medicine nauseated this patient, and often proved emetic, butalways with great relief of symptoms. It was continued, therefore, for some weeks, when every symptom of disease disappeared. None but those who know this lady's constitution can appreciate the unspeakable advantage and relief she obtained, on this occasion, from less than three grains of Emetic Tartar, the exhibition of which was extended to three weeks. From her appearance, the symptoms of her complaint, her history, the fate of her children, all of whom had scrofulous affections; I apprehended the worst from the moment I was informed of her situation. My satisfaction was therefore proportionably great on being enabled to rescue her from impending destruction.

CASE XLV.

A girl, fifteen years of age, and exhibiting unequivocal signs of a scrofulous constitution, applied to me in April 1818, for advice with regard to an enlargement of one of the submaxillary glands, which I had no doubt was scrofulous. The swelling occurred without any known cause, and was considerable when I first saw it. My young patient, apprehending nothing less than a deformity in her countenance, which often seals the fate of many a deserving young woman, was quite inconsolable. I put her upon Emetic Tartar in small doses once or twice a-day. She took her medicine for weeks without my being able to say I perceived any difference. At length the gland became softer, and the swelling evidently less. In June, the patient had an

attack of fever, in which inflammatory symptoms ran pretty high. I exhibited the Emetic Tartar more freely; which not only subdued the increased action of the system, but the swelling of the gland disappeared almost entirely. As the patient recovered, the swelling recurred in a slight degree; but the Emetic Tartar being resumed for a short time, it was so far reduced as to be invisible. That scrofulous inflammation and ulceration of the lymphatic glands of this girl's neck were prevented, by the exhibition of Emetic Tartar in alterative doses, for a considerable time, there cannot, I think, be a doubt.

CASE XLVI.

A young lady, aged fifteen, was put under my care in the course of September, 1818, in a most deplorable situation. A continuous scrofulous ulcer extended from ear to ear, down the front of the neck, and half way down the breast bone,—on the latter place, several inches in diameter; there were likewise two extensive and deep ulcers in one of her legs. She inherited the disease from her mother; and had been in the situation in which I found her, two years and a half, without receiving the least benefit from the treatment followed by an eminent surgeon who had advised her all this while. Independent of the pain attending ulcers so extensive, the copious discharge which issued from them, and in which her clothes were daily soaked,

rendered the situation of this girl doubly uncomfortable. This was an evil that could be instantly remedied; and it is surprising any man of common sense should have continued, for two years and a half, to apply ointments to surfaces, whose vessels were necessarily in a preternaturally relaxed state. *No ointments ought to come in contact with a scrofulous ulcer.*

The first thing I ordered was, that the surface of the sores should be washed clean, and dried. They were then covered with fine, soft, dry lint, cut in small pieces, and applied so, that each successive piece partially covered the preceding. In this way, a thick spongy mass was formed, sufficient to absorb all the matter produced in twenty-four hours. A pledget of lint and simple cerate was laid over the whole, to prevent evaporation, and thereby, to preserve the surfaces of the wounds and dressings in a soft and pliant state. The comfort which the patient

experienced from this very simple and obviously proper mode of proceeding, quite delighted her. The lint next the surface of the wounds came off at next dressing, in a mass, impregnated with matter; not a drop of which had escaped to pollute her clothes, and occasion, as formerly, a disagreeable smell. This circumstance was of immense consideration to the patient and all around her; and disposed her to submit to whatever might be further advised.

I now prescribed a vinous solution of Emetic Tartar in alterative doses, twice a-day for a short time, and afterwards in the evening only; and infusion of galls for washing the wounds daily. This occasioned a considerable degree of smarting at first; but the application was continued unremittingly. The Emetic Tartar was exhibited with the view of preventing any derangement of the system, or inflammatory action of the vessels of the sores, that might be

induced by checking the accustomed discharge from surfaces so extensive.

Steadily pursuing this plan, my young patient's very countenance was visibly improved in a short time; and at the end of a few weeks, the sores in the neck and breast were not only filled up to a level with the surrounding skin; but I had the satisfaction of seeing a circle of new skin formed completely round them, and projecting considerably inwards at different points. Isolated spots in the middle of the sores soon came to be covered with new skin also, and to approximate each other, till large patches were formed, which, in their turn, extended themselves in every direction. In this manner did the cure proceed; and at the moment I write (27th February) the whole of the neck is completely healed up, and the wound in the breast reduced to a very small compass. The ulcers in the leg threatened to be more refractory;

but they also are now filled up, and very nearly closed.

Whether the astringent infusion or the Emetic Tartar had the greatest share in this cure, I shall not decide; but this I know, that I should not have ventured on the external application, without exhibiting the internal remedy at the same time. As it was, the muscles in the front of the neck became partially swelled, rigid, and painful, on two or three different occasions, during the cure. The only difference of treatment, however, observed on such emergencies, was that of increasing the dose of Emetic Tartar; when every inflammatory symptom disappeared.

CASE XLVII.

While I was attending the preceding case, an elder sister of my patient was

seized in the very same way she had been, at the beginning of her complaints, with swelling and slightly lancinating pain in one of the glands under her chin. When I first examined it, the swelling was considerable, and the surface of the gland irregular, exhibiting the appearance of a pointed instrument pressing outwards against the skin. This young lady and all her family were in great tribulation, apprehending nothing less than deformity, and distress equal to what her sister had suffered. I immediately put her on a course of Emetic Tartar in alterative doses, night and morning. She continued thus for some weeks, without perceiving any sensible effects from the medicine, or alteration in the appearance of the gland: however, it did not increase in size, and she never felt pain in it after commencing the medicine. In about six weeks from the time I first examined the swelling, it had declined so far as not to

be perceptible to the eye, and the point which elevated the skin had subsided. Trusting that nature would complete the cure, I consented that the patient should intermit the medicine; but cautioned her to have recourse to it, in nauseating doses, upon the slightest increase in size, or sensation of pain in the gland. Happily no such thing has occurred, and it is now (March 1819) reduced to half its original size.

CASE XLVIII.

The power of Emetic Tartar in moderating fever and inflammatory action, is conspicuous in no disease more than in measles; and I am convinced, if it were more liberally employed, that

it would not only diminish the danger, but render the pneumonic and scrofulous sequelae of this disease infinitely less frequent. These remarks I shall illustrate by what occurred in a single family.—On the 10th of February, I was called to a boy, eight years of age, dying of croup—which had been preceded, first, by scarlet fever, and then by measles. The physician with whom I was called to consult, had, in my opinion, treated the case in the most scientific manner. The only alteration I proposed was, to increase the dose of antimonial solution, which I found had been exhibited for some time, but not in quantity to occasion nausea. My suggestion was complied with; and next day the pulse had fallen thirty beats in a minute. The patient expectorated a considerable portion of membrane, as he had likewise done before I saw him; so that we entertained some hopes of a re-

covery,—the more especially, as the calomel which was exhibited at the same time, had produced some green stools. We were disappointed. It was, however, of a second attack of croup that this boy died. The first supervened upon scarlet fever, and was expected to have proved fatal; but was cured, his physician is decidedly of opinion, by the Emetic Tartar employed on that occasion. Measles, as already stated, immediately succeeded; so that the patient fell a victim to attacks of disease, the number, rapidity, and violence of which, no constitution, however aided by medicine, could resist.

Three other children of the family were soon after seized with the measles. The eldest, twin-brother to him immediately deceased, was affected from the beginning with a dry, incessant, hoarse, ringing cough, precisely similar, his father and mother said, to that of the de-

ceased. Pulse 120, and hard. They were, therefore, in great tribulation. In absence of the other physician, I ordered a watery solution of Emetic Tartar, in nauseating doses, of which he approved. Next day, the pulse was 110, the cough almost gone; when it did occur, it was softer, and the patient expectorated freely. All this happened before the eruption appeared. In the second stage of the disease, the cough again became croupy; when, notwithstanding the bowels were affected with purging and tenesmus, we administered the Emetic Tartar, with the same happy effects as before.

The youngest of our three patients, a very plump boy, contracted a very croupy cough, about the height of the eruption. It also yielded immediately to the Emetic Tartar. On the 9th day, from the commencement of the disease, all three were free from complaint.

CASE XLIX.

On the 2d of March, I was called to James Baird, aged eleven, whom I found labouring under pneumonia. He had severe, fixed pain, at the top of the right breast, a dry hard cough, a burning hot skin, a hard pulse, beating 134 in a minute, and oppressive head-ache. It was at five o'clock in the afternoon of the third day of his distress I first saw him; and I gave him a fourth of a grain of Emetic Tartar, dissolved in water, before I left his bedside,—ordering the medicine to be repeated every two hours, in doses of an eighth of a grain.—9 *o'clock P. M.*—Vomited an hour after taking the first dose of his medicine, but retained the second. Pulse 126, skin moist, but the pain in the breast and head unmitigated. I took from six to seven ounces

of blood from the arm; during which operation, the boy became sick, and vomited. The bowels also were affected. I desired the patient might not be disturbed through the night, if he remained quiet and cool; but that he should get his medicine as formerly directed, if he became hot and restless.—*March 3d, A. M.*—Remained quiet and cool till five in the morning, when he became hot and restless. The medicine was then exhibited, but in trifling quantities; the fact is, I do not believe he got any of it. Pulse, at present 140, skin hot, and pain in the breast and head severe, tongue white, bowels sufficiently open. With my own hand, I administered a double dose (quarter of a grain) of his medicine, and ordered half the quantity to be exhibited in two hours.—*3 o'Clock P. M.*—The patient vomited, without being previously sick, the moment he got his second

dose. Has had considerable pain in his bowels from the medicine; skin much cooler, soft and pliant; does not complain so much of his breast and head; pulse 120.—9 *o'clock P. M.* Fell asleep immediately after last visit, and remained so till now. Skin moist; pulse 106; coughs and inspires fully, without pain in the breast. I pronounced the cure as certain, and nearly complete. Continue the medicine in small doses.—*March 4th.*—Has no complaint, rested well; pulse 96, but soft. Continue the medicine in doses short of occasioning vomiting.—*March 5th.*—Continues well, pulse 80, and soft. Another instance this, of the absurdity of imagining, that blood-letting alone can cure pneumonia—can subdue inflammatory action—of imagining, that oceans of blood must be made to flow, in order to restore the balance of the circulation in inflammatory complaints. It will not be denied, that, in this case,

the symptoms were urgent; yet the cure was certain in 22 hours, and complete in less than 36, from the exhibition of only three grains of Emetic Tartar. Seven ounces of blood were taken, I admit; but can those gentlemen whose practice I am combating, consistently attribute much to the mission of seven ounces of blood? besides, re-action became higher, and pain in the chest more severe, after blood-letting was employed.

CASE L.

About the end of winter, a gentleman on the borders of seventy, consulted me for a giddiness and swimming in his head. He was of a very full habit of body, and had enjoyed good health all

his life. This affection had manifested itself in the night previous to his applying to me, and was greatly increased on attempting to turn himself in bed.

Considering his stomach alone to be in fault, he went abroad, and had some medicine in a druggist's shop, but without any relief. As soon as he told me his case, I exhibited a dose of antimonial wine, some of which I chanced to have by me; and gave him a phial of it, with directions to take a small dose repeatedly, till an approach to nausea should be felt; but, above all things, to avoid vomiting. I advised him, moreover, to live sparingly, to take some purgative medicine, to avoid stooping and every kind of exertion, to sleep with his head high, and not to turn in bed, but in a slow and cautious manner.

I did not see my patient next day; but, on the following, I met him on the street, perfectly well, and resolved to continue

his medicine. That night, however, or the following, having forgot my directions, or considering himself out of all danger, he turned suddenly in bed, and was immediately seized with a severe fit of giddiness. His surgeon was sent for; and to what he did, the gentleman's countenance bears ample testimony, and will do so for life.

Had I been consulted on the second occasion, I certainly would have advised blood-letting; but to the extent only of relieving urgent symptoms. Authorized by former experience in the same subject, I would have trusted to Emetic Tartar for completing the cure. From the time he was first seized, the giddiness never left him, or abated in the least, till I administered the medicine as already stated, when it went off entirely; and he remained free from it for some days—indeed, till, by the sudden exertion of turn-

ing in bed, the blood was accumulated in the head. Had my directions been implicitly followed, there would have been no occasion for blood-letting. So much convinced, indeed, is the patient himself, of the prophylactic powers of Emetic Tartar in apoplexy, that, after copious and repeated depletion, he again applied to me for more of the medicine.

CASE LI.

About the end of March, a young lady was seized with a rheumatic affection of one side of her face, accompanied with a strong determination of blood to the head. There was exquisite pain in several teeth of the upper jaw, shooting up the side of the nose, and along the cheek-bone. She

had taken an opiate, with a view of relieving pain, which it did; but, at the same time, increased the impetus of the blood to the head. When I was consulted, the pain was beginning to return, and the patient, every now and then, expected the blood to gush from her nose. I instantly administered a dose of antimonial wine in water, which had the most happy and soothing effects. The pain in the gums, and sense of fulness and throbbing at the side of the nose, entirely left her in less than a quarter of an hour. I enjoined the erect posture, a dose of Epsom salts at bed-time, together with thirty drops of antimonial wine of double the usual strength. She passed the night in profound sleep. Next day she could stoop without uneasiness, which she dared not attempt the day before. A sense of tenderness remained in the parts originally affected. The patient continued her antimonial wine; and, in two

or three days at most, was free from complaint.

CASE LII.

About the beginning of March, I was called to a lady upwards of seventy, of a thin habit of body, and a pale and wrinkled countenance. She had complained for some days of headache, and called me in on account of a bleeding at the nose that had occurred. I found her pulse 90, and hard. The bleeding had recurred repeatedly, but to a trifling extent. I immediately prescribed Emetic Tartar, so as to occasion very slight nausea; with the strictest orders to avoid vomiting. The second or third dose produced the very state to which I

wished to bring the patient. In this state, however, her daughter gave her another dose, which was instantly followed by slight vomiting. In the act of vomiting, the bleeding at the nose recurred, but soon subsided after the former ceased. From this mistake, the nurse learned to manage matters better, and the bleeding never returned. Two days after, I visited my patient, and found her pulse soft and less frequent, and the headache entirely gone. When the advocates for profuse blood-letting, in actual or threatened apoplexy, shall convince me they have made a fair trial of Emetic Tartar, or of moderate blood-letting followed by Emetic Tartar, without success, I shall then, but not till then, adopt their practice.

CASE LIII.

On the 22d of March, I was consulted by a gentleman, about twenty-one years of age, for a pleuradynia in the right side. Pulse about 50, irregular and oppressed. I proposed bleeding him immediately, to which he was quite averse. I therefore prescribed Emetic Tartar, with injunctions to keep the house, and consider himself ill. Being twenty-four miles from home, and on business, he only took the medicinal part of my advice, and went to the theatre in the evening with some ladies. I did not see him again till the morning of the 24th, when I was sent for. He had taken his medicine the preceding evening, so as to occasion vomiting in the night; after which he had several hours of sound sleep. I found his pulse below 50, irregular and

oppressed. I attempted to bleed him, but could procure only about six ounces. He was so fat, and his veins were so small and deep seated, that it required no small pains to procure even this quantity. My disappointment, however, did not create in me any great uneasiness. I pushed the Emetic Tartar in the course of the day. At nine o'clock in the evening I found him sitting close by a large fire, enjoying the company of several ladies and gentlemen, greatly better, he said, and possessing free motion of the trunk of his body, which he had not in the morning. I ordered him to bed, but he sat up till eleven, transacting business. Next day, I was sent for before breakfast, and found him worse than ever. The pain under the cartilages of the true ribs was acute, and affected respiration in a distressing degree. I succeeded in drawing eighteen ounces of blood from his arm, and now exhibited Emetic Tartar

more frequently, and in larger doses than before. The patient expressed great satisfaction with this medicine; he felt relief, for a considerable time, from every dose. In the course of the day his pulse rose from 50 to 80, and became perfectly regular. The cure, I may say, commenced in the morning of the 25th, and I had no occasion to visit him after the evening of the 26th; although, at his own desire, he continued the antimonial medicine for two days longer. No other remedy was used, except a dose or two of Epsom salts. The *hypnotic*, or sleep-inducing power of Emetic Tartar, was most conspicuous in this case. During the night of the 25th, the patient, though he could not yet make a full inspiration without pain, enjoyed as sound and placid sleep as if he had been entirely free from complaint.

CASE LIV.

On the 24th March, I was called to a young girl, aged six, in scarlet fever. She was under the care of her brother, a surgeon, who requested my aid on account of a violent affection of the lungs, which refused to yield to any thing he could devise. Pulse 140, cough incessant, hard, and without the slightest expectoration. I proposed bleeding the child at the arm immediately, as I conceived nothing else could save her. She would not submit. I then prescribed a solution of one grain of Emetic Tartar to an ounce of water, of which a tea spoonful was directed to be given every hour.

4 *o'Clock P. M.*—Has got three or four doses of the medicine, which occasioned nausea and vomiting two or three several

times. Pulse 130, skin moist, cough still incessant and dry. Continue the medicine, in doses of two-thirds the quantity formerly administered.

9 o'Clock P.M.—Pulse 120, cough still very frequent, but evidently not so dry. Continue the medicine, with infusion of senna, as the child refuses saline medicines.

March 25, A. M.—Pulse 120, but soft; cough giving way; slept a good deal in the night; bowels open. Continue the antimonial medicine.

From this time forward the fever gradually abated, and the pneumonic symptoms had entirely disappeared by the fourth day from the time the antimonial medicine was administered. No other remedy was used, except a dose or two of calomel and jalap; but even this was not exhibited till after the fever and cough had greatly abated. Any practitioner that had witnessed this

case would not be disposed to conclude that I have over-rated the powers of Emetic Tartar in any instance.

CASE LV.

On the 7th of May I was called to a young lady, aged sixteen, who had been "in an indifferent state of health for some time." I found her much emaciated, harassed with incessant coughing, and her sputum copiously streaked, or rather altogether coloured, with blood. Pulse 114. Astonished at the apathy of her friends, who seemed not to apprehend any danger, though moving in a circle in which more intelligence might have been expected, I frankly told them I feared the worst, and that before the

summer elapsed. I formed this opinion from the great prostration of strength and emaciation which had already taken place, though as yet there was no ulceration of the lungs.

I advised immediate recourse to Emetic Tartar, in slightly nauseating doses, for once or twice.

May 10*th*.—Was nauseated only once on the 7th. Cough not near so frequent. Expectoration much freer, and no appearance of blood in the sputum. Pulse 106. Continue the medicine.

15*th*.—Had a return of haemoptysis in a very slight degree, and for a short time, since my last visit. Cough much less troublesome. Pulse still above 100.

20*th*.—At this visit, I contrived to enter into a long conversation with the patient's mother, for the purpose of observing the state of the young lady's cough. During all the time *she never coughed once;* whereas, when she began her me-

dicine, she had not *one minute's respite.* I was informed, that now, she seldom coughed any, except when dressing and undressing herself. Appearance of blood in the sputum entirely gone. Pulse 100.

24*th.*—Still free from cough. Pulse 100.

I now ask the candid reader, if he knows any other medicine than Emetic Tartar which would have produced such happy effects, in such a case, in so short a time, and without the slightest detriment to the system? I profess myself totally ignorant of any such.

CASE LVI.

In March last a gentleman, about forty-five years of age, of a very delicate frame and effete appearance, consulted me in regard to a rheumatic affection in his back, betwixt the left shoulder-blade and spine, and reaching directly through the thorax to the sternum. Obtuse pain in the chest, languor, a sense of oppression and difficult respiration, totally unfitted him for the slightest exertion—which, notwithstanding, he was obliged to make, in the way of speaking, for ten days after he came under my care. He had been in this situation for eight months, and under the care of two very able physicians. He never slept, but from a frightful dose of laudanum; of course, he never had a motion of the bowels but by force of medicine. His

appetite was bad, his pulse upwards of 80.

This gentleman applied to me in the expectation of being benefited by percussion,—a hope which I by no means entertained. I applied it, however; and with the most soothing and exhilirating effects. It removed the load which hung so heavy upon him; and, after every dose, he was able to make a full inspiration. The patient was convinced, indeed, that the application directly strengthened him; but its happy effects were to be attributed to the equalization of the nervous energy and circulation of the fluids of the body.*

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* See my Treatise on Rheumatism, second edition, 1819; where this doctrine and practice are illustrated by many unparalleled cases. But extraordinary as these are, I have others nearly ready for publication, which far excel them. In vol. i of the Transactions of the Association of the Fellows and Licenciates of King's and Queen's College, Dublin,

I suspected obscure inflammation in the chest, and told my patient so. He was greatly alarmed; but I quieted his apprehensions, by assuring him of the sedative powers of Emetic Tartar, the use of which he began immediately. He took a dose at bed-time, and another an hour or two after breakfast. He never required another drop of laudanum; no more laxative medicine was necessary.

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there is a case of chronic rheumatic inflammation, of uncommon severity and long standing, which was quickly cured by the adoption of my practice, after all other means had been tried in vain. The case is given by Dr. Richard Grattan, Fellow of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland, and permanent Physician to the Fever Hospital and House of Recovery, Dublin. I embrace this opportunity of returning thanks to that distinguished physician, for the handsome terms in which he has been pleased to mention my work on Rheumatism; and for his noble candour, in attributing to the practice I have introduced, one of the most extraordinary cures ever recorded.

Henceforth he slept every night five or six hours without interruption; and his bowels were as regular as he could desire. In the course of a week, the pain in the back and chest was removed, and respiration relieved of course.

I attended this gentleman occasionally for a fortnight; during which he had two relapses, occasioned by cold, of which he was sensible at the time of contracting it. These attacks were soon removed by percussion and Emetic Tartar, the only remedies I prescribed,—the only remedies from which he derived benefit during the whole course of his present illness. Had they been employed *initio morbi*, not only would protracted suffering have been prevented, but the necessity of swallowing an immense quantity of medicine—the bare recollection of which nauseated the patient more than did all my Emetic Tartar.

I have before observed, that, in fever, the nervous system is primarily affected; and that arterial re-action is a consequence of such affection. The facts I have brought forward establish this, I think, beyond all controversy. It must be admitted, that Emetic Tartar acts primarily on the nerves; otherwise, how comes the skin to sympathise so readily with the stomach, when this medicine is administered? The nerves are the medium of all sympathies. If, therefore, Emetic Tartar acts primarily and principally on the nervous system, its good effects, in inflammatory affections, must be owing to the change it produces in the state of the nerves in the first place, and consequently in vascular action.

Particular remedies are suited to certain states, or conditions of the nervous sys-

tem. In tetanus, for example, as well as in inflammatory action, the nerves are in a state of high excitement; but stimulants are found beneficial in the former disease, and sedatives only in the latter. Accordingly, that state or condition of the nervous system which produces or precedes arterial re-action, fever, or inflammation, is the state in which Emetic Tartar exerts its benign and sanative influence. On the heart and arteries of a person in perfect health, it has no observable effect, except, perhaps, in doses which few would be inclined to take; it lowers the tone of both, when in a state of inflammatory action. Local inflammation is not different from inflammatory diathesis, except as to extent. The nerves of a part, therefore, in a state of inflammatory action, are in that state or condition which renders them susceptible of a salutary influence from Emetic Tar-

tar. Hence it is, that this medicine subdues inflammation, whether general or local, chronic or acute.

Consumption is a disease little more frequent, than it has hitherto been mortal. Accumulated observation, individual skill, and medicine combined, have proved totally inadequate to arrest its destructive career; so that, were it not quite unphilosophical to doubt the possibility of curing any disease, physicians would be justified in abandoning all hope of ever discovering a remedy for consumption. But while every day witnesses the multiplication of the means of alleviating human suffering—the developement of powers in old remedies, which have escaped the observation of our predecessors; let us hope the time may ar-

rive, when the ravages of this disease, like those of the small-pox, will be talked of as having been.

I am far from imagining that any single remedy will ever be found capable of itself, without the co-operation of other means, of either curing or preventing consumption; but I believe that particular remedies may be found much more powerful in resisting its primary attacks, than any employed for that purpose; and I conclude that Emetic Tartar is one of those remedies. I draw this conclusion from the facts adduced, ascertaining the power of this medicine in subduing inflammatory action, whether general or local—chronic or acute; and likewise, from the nature of the occasional causes of the disease.

Consumption is often hereditary; but a moment's reflection must convince any one, that the disease may be induced where

there is no hereditary taint, predisposition, or peculiarity of structure. For, even in those families in which it is hereditary, it must have had a beginning. Conversely, the hereditary taint may exist in individuals and in families without the disease manifesting itself, otherwise than by external signs of predisposition. Occasional causes, however they may elude observation—however silently, secretly, and insidiously they may operate,—are necessary to the actual production of the disease. Therefore, if the occasional causes of consumption are avoided, a predisposition to it may remain latent in a family for generations, and at last be eradicated. These positions are strongly exemplified in the effects produced by mercury on phthisical constitutions.

If, then, the most certain method of preventing consumption is, to avoid the occasional causes; it follows, that the remedy which most readily, effectually, and

with least injury to the constitution, obviates or controuls these causes, must be deemed, in proportion, a preventive of the disease.

The occasional causes of consumption are referable to haemoptysis, pneumonia, catarrh, asthma, and tubercles.

The means recommended for the cure of haemoptysis, by the ablest writers on medicine, and indeed that are indicated by the symptoms of the disease, are every part of the antiphlogistic regimen,—refrigerent medicines,—but, above all, blood-letting. This is recommended to be practised according to the urgency of symptoms, and to be repeated according to predisposition and actual or threatened recurrence of the disease; not so much, however, with a view to lessen the quantity of blood in circulation, as to take off the phlogistic diathesis, which always attends the disease when it is the consequence of predisposition. Now, however rational, however ne-

cessary in the absence of a better, such a plan of treatment may be; still, to the most superficial observer, there is a *desideratum*. Blood-letting can seldom be practised, in the cure of haemoptysis, to a degree sufficient to take off inflammatory irritation, without inducing dangerous debility,—the very object of our fear and dread, in the treatment of all patients of phthisical parents, and of phthisical constitutions. Emetic Tartar, on the contrary, subdues inflammatory action, and soothes irritation, without producing debility. It restores and maintains the equability of the circulation, and therefore cures and prevents a determination of the blood to any particular organ. These effects it produces more decidedly and more permanently than blood-letting; and moreover, has this advantage, that its exhibition may be continued, not only without detriment, but with great advantage to the constitutions of the predispo-

sed to consumption. This I can assert as a matter of experience and observation, that Emetic Tartar may be exhibited with occasional interruptions, in order to keep up its effect without increasing the dose, for many months together; and, so far from injuring the digestion, or any other organs, it promotes all the excretions in a powerful degree. May it not, therefore, be concluded *a priori*, that a medicine possessed of such power, is capable of expelling from phthisical constitutions, that acrimony which facilitates the operation of occasional causes in producing consumption?

Here I must remark, that Dr. Cullen never once mentions Emetic Tartar, or antimonials in any form, as calculated either to cure or prevent haemoptysis; and yet he had more faith in Emetic Tartar, and used it more extensively, than any other physcian, perhaps, of his day. This is the more surprising, seeing he was well

acquainted with its power in increasing the action of the extreme vessels, and, consequently, in determining the blood to the surface. But Dr. Cullen seems to to have proceeded on the supposition, that these effects depended solely on the exhibition of nauseating doses of the medicine in question. Now, as nausea cannot always be produced without being followed by vomiting, and as the action of vomiting may prove dangerous in haemorrhagy, it is reasonable to suppose, that, for these reasons, he considered Emetic Tartar inadmissible in haemoptysis. But had Dr. Cullen been fully acquainted with the powers of this medicine, which it is evident he was not—had he known that Emetic Tartar may be so exhibited as to subdue febrile action, to soothe irritation, and to preserve the equability of the circulation, without inducing nausea and vomiting; he would have recommended it in all haemorrhagies, particularly in

haemoptysis from predisposition, as calculated to supersede the necessity of blood-letting in a great measure, and thereby to save the strength of the patient.

Pneumonia, when severe, is to all a dangerous disease; but particularly to those who are predisposed to consumption. In sound constitutions, suppuration may take place, and the wound heal up kindly; where a hereditary taint exists, there is every risk of such a termination proving ultimately fatal.

In such cases, the only certain method of preventing phthisis from pneumonic inflammation is, to obtain resolution of such inflammation. For this purpose, blood-letting is generally the first and last remedy employed. But every day's experience demonstrates, that, in severe cases of pneumonia, blood-letting cannot

be carried the length of completely subduing inflammatory action, without becoming more dangerous than the disease it is intended to cure. This must be the case, *a fortiori*, in patients predisposed to consumption, in whom debility is so easily induced, and with so much difficulty overcome.

The instances I have adduced in the preceding reports, of Emetic Tartar subduing pneumonic inflammation in particular, with little or no aid from blood-letting, sufficiently prove its importance in the treatment of the disease occurring in phthisical constitutions. We are not obliged, in order to subdue inflammation, to carry depletion the length of greatly reducing the strength of the patient. If blood-letting is necessary in the first instance, Emetic Tartar presents itself as an auxiliary little less powerful than, if not equivalent to, the principal. Indeed, I contend I have redeemed my pledge of

"demonstrating that, in many cases of local inflammation, accompanied with violent re-action, blood-letting, to one third the extent generally practised, is not necessary to the cure; that a speedy and perfect cure can be obtained with the loss of so moderate a quantity of blood, as to warrant the conclusion, that it might be safely omitted altogether, even in circumstances in which it is generally considered the only means of saving the patient."

Catarrh, though in sound constitutions, generally a mild disease, may, by frequent recurrence, long continuance, mismanagement, or neglect, be productive of phthisis in those predisposed to it in various ways. It may be exasperated by fresh and repeated accessions of cold, so as to produce pneumonic inflammation—by the afflux of fluids to the bronchiae, it may

occasion haemoptysis—by long continued irritation of the lungs, it may produce tubercles, or occasion the inflammation of tubercles already formed. If, therefore, catarrh consists in an afflux of fluids to the mucous membrane of the nose, fauces, and bronchiae, accompanied with inflammatory action of these parts—if this afflux and this action are occasioned by diminished perspiration, and encreased by fresh accessions of cold, repelling the fluids from the surface—if Emetic Tartar is powerful in equalizing the circulation, in determining to the surface, and in subduing inflammatory irritation; then it must also be considered a powerful preventive of phthisis from catarrh.

Asthma is cured or relieved by Emetic Tartar, on the same principles on which it subdues inflammation. This is evident

from the history of Asthma, which, though considered a nervous disorder, yet has some things in common with the phlegmasiae.

The disease is often hereditary, and depends on a peculiar mobility of the moving fibres of the lungs. The proximate cause seems to consist in a spasmodic contraction of the muscular fibres of the bronchiae; but an asthmatic fit depends on fulness of the vessels of the lungs. This fulness or congestion may be, and often is, occasioned by a cold and humid atmosphere, checking the perspiration, and repelling the blood from the surface to the internal parts. Catarrhal affections, accordingly, often accompany the disease; and a frequent pulse, with other symptoms of fever, are not unfrequent attendants of a paroxysm of asthma;—so far Dr. Cullen. Now, as the immediate effect of Emetic Tartar, in inflammatory complaints, is the equalization of the nervous

power, and, consequently, of the circulation of the blood; so is it in asthma. If, therefore, congestion of blood in the lungs is the exciting cause of a paroxysm of asthma; no paroxysm can occur while the balance of the circulation is maintained. In this way I would explain what I have often observed, that emetic doses of Emetic Tartar give most complete and permanent relief to asthmatic patients. Such doses most powerfully relax the whole frame—most forcibly propel the blood to the surface, and distant parts of the body—and thereby most effectually relieve the lungs. Thus, by curing asthma, Emetic Tartar becomes a preventive of the consequences that might flow from it, particularly to those predisposed to consumption.

These observations, it must be evident, apply exclusively to asthma properly so called. No such effects can be expected from any remedy, in those disorders which

only simulate this disease, and are symptomatic of a morbid state of the heart and aorta.

I refer the reader to cases 33, 38, 42. I think it proper also to mention, that, in the course of the last six months, I have received many verbal testimonies, both from medical practitioners, and from patients themselves, of the power of Emetic Tartar in curing and relieving asthma, dyspnoea, and chronic irritation of the lungs.

Tubercles are the most frequent of all the occasional causes of consumption, and produce a disease much more fatal than all the other causes combined. Their formation, therefore, should be prevented, or their resolution procured, without delay, and by all possible means. But these objects are not so easily attained as clearly

indicated. Accordingly, physicians have been hitherto compelled to satisfy themselves with merely endeavouring to prevent inflammation and consequent suppuration of tubercles. Dr. Cullen, however, does not despair of a remedy being yet found for their cure, although he candidly acknowledges his ignorance of any such. Warranted, then, by such high authority, to continue our researches; let us review the various causes of, and circumstances attending, the formation of tubercles, together with the known powers of Emetic Tartar, and see, whether the *data* will authorise conclusions in favour of this remedy, as possessing in any degree the qualities we are in quest of.

When a person, born of phthisical parents, of a phthisical constitution, at the phthisical period of life, and in the enjoyment of almost an excess of health, contracts a short dry cough, which becomes habitual, and is exasperated by fresh acces-

sions of cold, with which he becomes more and more easily affected; there is cause for the most serious alarm. In some cases things continue in much the same state for a considerable time; generally, however, new symptoms and causes of alarm gradually develope themselves. A sense of straitness, if not of local pain, is felt in the chest. The breathing is easily hurried. Languor and debility begin to be experienced, and emaciation to be perceptible. During the developement of these symptoms, tubercles are supposed to be forming in the lungs. In such cases, then, the remote causes of tubercles are to be sought for in a hereditary taint or predisposition to phthisis, and in a certain time of life. These conspire to render the body peculiarly susceptible of being affected by the causes of inflammation. Accordingly, phthisis, even in the predisposed, can often be dated from exposure to cold, from excess, or from some cause or

other of inflammatory action. Independently of observation and experience, it may well be supposed, that suppressed perspiration must be the principal occasional cause of a disease, which it exasperates in every stage of its progress. Suppressed perspiration, to which the excitability of phthisical patients render them so very liable, must create and increase an inflammatory diathesis—must occasion an afflux of humours, and an irritation in the lungs, which are to be regarded as the immediate causes of the formation of those substances in them, denominated tubercles.

These observations apply equally to tubercles, which are occasioned by asthma, catarrh, and haemoptysis. An afflux of humours, and long-continued irritation in the lungs, are the last links in the chain of causes producing tubercles, in every case where they occur; whether preceded by other diseases, or occurring in appearance

spontaneously. Where there is long-continued afflux of blood, or congestion in the lungs, as in the disposed to haemoptysis, a proportionate quantity of excrementitious matter falls to be carried off by this emunctory. This is the case, *a fortiori*, in catarrhal affections, and in asthma so often accompanied by catarrh. No wonder, then, that the causes of inflammation, concurring with predisposition, should so often produce disease in the lungs. The wonder is, not that so many, but that so few of mankind die of pulmonary complaints.

The skin, the lungs, the intestines and kidneys, excrete substances of very dissimilar qualities. The matter, therefore, which ought to be carried off by the skin, being accumulated in the system, and in the course of circulation applied to the lungs, must affect them in a peculiar manner. Hence, in all cases of suppressed perspiration, they are more or less

affected; but in phthisical constitutions peculiarly so. When this cause is often applied, and long continued, depositions are formed, which, in their turn, increase the irritation to which they owe their origin. This irritation is soon communicated to the system; for irritation cannot remain long isolated in any important organ; much less in an organ so important to the system as are the lungs.

The same effects must follow, though tubercles consist of indurated lymphatic glands.

Thus, it is manifest, that phthisis is an inflammatory disease. It is produced by the causes of inflammation—inflammatory symptoms accompany it from the first cough, to the last expiration of the patient.

Some physicians, rightly considering phthisis an inflammatory disease, have practised blood-letting in it to an incredible extent,—with the view, no doubt, of

ultimately subduing inflammatory action; but with no other effect than accelerating, by the debility produced, a fatal termination. Even at this day, individual practitioners of no mean name are disposed to follow the same practice. It will not be contended, I presume, that such physicians have much faith in the power of Emetic Tartar in subduing inflammatory action, irritability, and irritation.

On the assumption, that phthisis is, in its nature, inflammatory, may be explained, we think, some of the most important, if not all, the phenomena of the disease. Of these I shall mention only two, debility and emaciation. In speaking of the tendency to separation in the proximate principles of the blood, as an effect of inflammatory diathesis, we remarked, that this effect is the result of suspended or diminished secretion. Wherever fever exists, secretion or the apposition of new matter is proportionably sus-

pended; while the action of the absorbents continue unimpaired. Hence the debility and emaciation, even in the early stages of consumption. Languor, debility, and falling off of the flesh never precede, but are always consequent to febrile action. Of this there cannot be a doubt, as, with the developement of these symptoms, frequency of pulse is always combined.

Now, whoever has read the preceding reports with that confidence to which truth is entitled, must coincide with me in the conclusion, that Emetic Tartar possesses, in a degree superior to any other medicine yet known, the very qualities required, both for the prevention and cure of consumption. It subdues inflammation, whether general or local, acute or obscure. It is *paregoric* and *hypnotic*, without being *narcotic*. That is to say, it assuages pain, soothes irritation, and induces sleep, without stupifying the patient. I have before observed, that, in

the disposed to consumption, there is an acrimony or taint which facilitates the operation of the occasional causes of the disease. This acrimony is increased by the irregularity with which the excretory functions are performed, particularly of the skin. Emetic Tartar promotes all the excretions, especially those by the skin and lungs; and, moreover, prevents congestion in the latter. In one word, there is not a cause of phthisis to which an antidote is not to be found in Emetic Tartar; which, combined with other remedies, and with *a bland but generous diet*, will be found capable, I trust, of restraining, in an important degree, the ravages of that fatal disease.

On this subject it would be easy to enlarge. But I am not writing a treatise on phthisis. I only give an outline of a practice which I have begun with success, and which I shall prosecute, till farther experience establishes it, or proves

my present views on the subject incorrect.

For illustrations of the power of Emetic Tartar, in the cure and prevention of phthisis and phthisical complaints, see cases 33, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 55, 56.

In apoplexy, when its attacks are sudden, and without any premonitory symptoms, blood-letting is necessary certainly, in the first place. But this powerful remedy may be, and very often is, carried too far. Where the disease depends on venous congestion, blood-letting most readily relieves the brain from pressure; when, on increased impetus of blood in the arteries, the same remedy will diminish it for a time. Blood-letting, however, will not always take off the disposition to apoplexy; and a perpetual recurrence to it can produce no other effect than danger-

ous debility. Apoplexy, doubtless, is often occasioned by plethora, and always by an irregular distribution of the blood; but an apoplectic diathesis often exists where there is great debility, and in people far advanced in life. In such circumstances, copious and repeated blood-letting can neither be safe nor scientific practice. It is astonishing, indeed, to hear practitioners boasting of the quantity of blood they take from old and wrinkled patients, not only when actually labouring under, but when merely threatened with an attack of this disease. The question then occurs, can the disease be prevented by any other mode of treatment? I answer, Yes. Nay, I affirm that, except where a serious attack has actually taken place, or is *immediately* threatened, blood-letting is not *necessary* in the treatment of apoplexy. At all events, there is no necessity for carrying it the length it is generally practised, or for trusting to it as the only remedy.

The whole of the facts recorded in this essay bear testimony to the power of Emetic Tartar in restraining vascular action, and in equalizing the circulation; and, therefore, that it is a more safe and effectual preventive of apoplexy than blood-letting. If an apoplectic diathesis exists in some old, wrinkled, and pale-faced people, and in others that are by no means plethoric; revulsive remedies which do not weaken the system, or but inconsiderably, and remedies which powerfully determine to the surface, are clearly indicated; not those which give sudden but temporary relief, and which cannot fail to induce debility.

Nervous diseases, or diseases of debility, often manifest a tendency to, and sometimes terminate spontaneously, or from improper treatment, in apoplexy. This must be owing to deficiency of general excitement. Who, in his senses, would think of abstracting blood in such cases?

"There are few instances, one should imagine, in which a person whose understanding has not been debauched by superannuated prejudice or practice, been enslaved by the trammels of a professional and hereditary routine, would think of removing debility by abstracting blood, or of restoring an enfeebled and exhausted frame, by evacuating any part of that fluid which conduces most essentially and and immediately to its vigour and sup-support.

"The fatal result of apoplexy, perhaps, too frequently arises from the manner in which it is treated. Sometimes, even after the paroxysm has subsided, bleeding is had recourse to, from a vague and empirical notion of its indiscriminate utility in this disease."*

See cases 23, 24, 27, 29, 31, 32, 50, 51, 52.

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* Report of Diseases, Monthly Magazine, vol. xx. 1805. See also Dr. Whytt on Nervous Diseases.

Such are the effects I have observed from Emetic Tartar, in general and local, acute and chronic inflammation, and in irregular distributions of the blood and nervous energy; effects, to say the least of them, sufficient to draw the attention of the profession to this important remedy. And if the observations and facts I have related shall have this effect, my object will be accomplished.

The fact of Emetic Tartar having particularly arrested the attention of such men as Cullen, Fordyce, and other eminent physicians, is a strong presumption that it possesses qualities which have escaped the observation of others. When by one individual only, properties are ascribed to a particular remedy, which have eluded the research of all others, though sufficient pains may have been taken to detect them; there is room for scepticism and caution. But when the same observations are made by a succes-

sion of individuals, to whose judgment and opinion the profession shew deference in other matters; there is good reason to conclude, that such observations are not without foundation; and that it is owing to prejudice, or supineness, or both, they are not confirmed by others. That a strong prejudice against Emetic Tartar has existed in this country,—that it has been falling into disuse for the last twenty years,—and that the ideas entertained of its powers are general, vague, and undefined, are truths which cannot be successfully controverted, whatever may be pretended to the contrary. Ten days have not elapsed (21st May 1818) since one of the most eminent physicians of this city, and to whom the medical profession, and mankind in general, are under great obligations, frankly acknowledged to me, he had not, of late years, used it at all in inflammatory complaints. This I knew to be the fact, but was better pleased to

have it from his own mouth. About the same time, another physician, whom posterity will associate with the benefactors of the human race, told me, when I informed him what I was about, "that Cullen nauseated with Emetic Tartar, many a poor patient out of existence." Is it to be expected, then, that a medicine is in general use, which is held in little estimation by one physician, and abhorred by another,—to both of whom, the younger part, and those in the humbler walks, of the profession, are accustomed to look up?

Emetic Tartar is said to be inadmissible where there is great debility; and in advanced stages of typhoid fever. But upon what principle? Certainly on account of its lowering the action of the system, already too low. This proves, then, that it must be highly beneficial in the inflammatory stage of fevers, when the action of the system is too high. This

proves, that Dr. Cullen's practice of exhibiting liberally, when the system is in a state of morbid tone, a remedy so powerfully relaxing and sedative as Emetic Tartar manifestly is, must be considered the result of profound knowledge in pathology.

From the facts narrated, it may be fairly inferred, I think, that Emetic Tartar must be highly beneficial in every genus and species of inflammation, whether chronic or acute; not excepting those affections even (Cases 31, 37, 48,) in which it has been supposed the medicine could not be retained in sufficient quantity to have much effect on the circulation. We have seen its effects in symptomatic fever, induced by local injury,—in several severe cases of pneumonia,—in inflammatory gout,—in rheumatism, chronic and acute,—in cynanche tonsillaris,—in idiopathic fever,—in hernia humoralis,—in chronic inflammation of the bladder,—in

inflammation of the mamma,—in ophthalmia,—in chronic hepatitis,—in nephritis,—in croup,—in measles,—in dyspnoea,—in asthma,—in haemoptysis,—in consumption,—in apoplexy. It certainly is not carrying analogy too far, to anticipate similar beneficial effects from it in other kinds of inflammation, and in inflammatory affections of other organs.

Medical practitioners have observed, and so have people in general, that a vomit of Emetic Tartar, exhibited in the commencement of fever, is attended with beneficial effects. It generally puts an end to that oppression of the brain, languor and listlessness, yawning and stretching, which constitute the primary phenomena of fever. But these effects it produces by restoring the functions of the brain and equilibrium of the nervous power, and, through these, the balance of the circulation; not, as physicians have vainly imagined, by merely evacu-

ating the stomach. Yawning, and stretching, and sneezing, are evidently efforts of nature to preserve the balance of the circulation; and the forcible concussion given to the whole body by the action of vomiting must contribute powerfully to the same end. But the beneficial effects of Emetic Tartar are not merely mechanical: for if it is continued, after full vomiting is produced, in doses short of occasioning nausea even, it will be found to moderate re-action, and to drive it away altogether. Its tendency is to preserve the balance of the circulation, and to restore it when lost. *Increased arterial, or inflammatory action, is incompatible with the presence of Emetic Tartar in the system.*

From these observations it is evident, that, if Emetic Tartar does not altogether supersede the necessity of blood-letting in fever, it at least renders *copious* depletion unnecessary. The former acts primarily

on the nervous, the latter on the sanguiferous system. Combined, therefore, less of each is necessary; and they are more efficient and safe in every case of febrile action than blood-letting alone.

From the power manifested by Emetic Tartar in equalizing the circulation, particularly in obviating a determination of blood to the head, it should prove an excellent remedy in those cases of insanity which depend on increased tension and fulness of the vessels of the brain. Vomiting, except as powerfully determining to the surface, must be extremely preposterous in a paroxysm of high nervous excitement, whether occasioned by, or occasioning increased impetus of blood to the head; but I cannot conceive any thing more powerful in allaying nervous irritation, and in obviating or resolving vascular congestion, than *nauseating* doses of Emetic Tartar.

Had vaccination remained undiscover-

ed, and small-pox still continued its ravages; I would have said, that a liberal use of Emetic Tartar, by moderating the violence of the eruptive fever, would greatly lessen the danger of this disease.

From analogy, it may be fairly concluded, that much of the mortality among Europeans visiting tropical climates may be prevented, by the timeous and judicious use of Emetic Tartar. As the diseases of those climates are the diseases of increased action of the system; this medicine, by moderating that action, which runs to so great a height in Europeans, cannot fail to render the seasoning-fever much less fatal.

I am aware, that this reasoning will be resisted by most, if not all, who have practised in the West Indies, where the stomach is so quickly and powerfully affected in all febrile complaints. But it is not to be inferred, that a remedy cannot be highly beneficial in the commence-

ment of fever, because prejudicial in the advanced stage, when the stomach is in a state of high irritation. It does not follow, therefore, that Emetic Tartar is not admissible at all in the fevers of tropical, because it cannot be exhibited so liberally as in those of cold and temperate climates; nor that, it cannot act as a powerful preparative, in rendering the change which European constitutions undergo in hot climates, less violent. Experience alone can determine the matter; and certainly it is a subject which merits the fullest investigation.

FINIS.

Duncan Stevenson & Co. Printers,
Parliament Stairs.